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## **East Asia**

***NORTH KOREA***

***BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON 100 OFFICIALS***

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# East Asia

## NORTH KOREA

### BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON 100 OFFICIALS

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## Biographic Information on 100 Officials

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### Kang Sok-sung

[Text] Director of the History Research Institute of the Central Committee of the WPK and director of a party department.

Born in 1923 in Pyongyang, he dropped out of the Pyongyang Sungsil Middle School during the Japanese annexation period and after the liberation attended the Pyongyang Academy and Kim Il-song University. From 1949 until 1953 he studied at Moscow University in the Soviet Union. A well educated member of the elite, he is well grounded in political theory.

After his overseas studies, he worked in the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the WPK, was a section chief and deputy department director, and in 1968 became dean of the Songdo Political College in Kaesong, a base for training cadres for activities against South Korea. In 1972 he was made director of the WPK Central Committee School and the Marxism-Leninism Academy, and was responsible for training mid-level party officials.

With this background, in 1975 he was promoted to the post of director of the WPK History Research Institute, which gives theoretical and ideological support to the personality cult of Kim Il-song and his family, and is in the forefront of the Kim Chong-il personality cult and the fabrication of his reputation.

For playing the leading role in fabricating Kim Chong-il's prestigious reputation and justifying his legitimacy as the successor, he was appointed a Central Committee department director in 1978, and in 1980—when Kim Chong-il assumed sweeping powers—Kang was chosen as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in 1984 became a full member. He has served as a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly ever since the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in 1972.

In recent years he has frequently been involved in external activities. In particular, he participated in the North-South dialogue in the post of senior member of the advisory committee at the time of the North-South Red Cross Talks in 1985.

Not too tall, he wears glasses and is generally a man of few words. He is regarded as gentleman—a kindly and unassuming scholar.

He has a clear mind, is scholarly and well read, and is unusually well versed in WPK theoretical matters. In particular, he is widely acknowledged as a peerless authority in matters concerning Kim Il-song and his family.

### Kang Song-san

[Text] Member of the WPK Politburo and responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.

Born in Pyongyang in 1926, he is a graduate of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and is one of the linchpin figures of the regime. After graduating from Mangyongdae Academy he entered Kim Il-song University. He then went to the Soviet Union to study, graduating from Moscow University.

In 1955 he started out as a deputy guidance officer in the WPK Central Committee and in 1962 became director of the Organization and Guidance Department. He was promoted in 1967 to responsible secretary of Chagang Provincial Party Committee.

He began to move into the political limelight when he was singled out to take the post of responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee in 1969. Following that, he was chosen as a full member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970. He rose rapidly to candidate member of the Politburo in September 1973.

Kang became a senior administrative official when he was appointed vice premier of the State Administration Council in 1975. At the Sixth Party Congress in 1980 he advanced to the position of full member of the Politburo, becoming one of the real power-brokers of the regime.

In 1982 he took over the newly created post of first vice premier of the State Administration Council. He has followed a relatively smooth road to success, being selected in January 1984 as premier of the State Administration Council, succeeding Yi Chong-ok. During his 3 years in the post of premier, after laying the groundwork for a new economic plan, he moved to the post of party secretary.

Afterwards, in March 1988, he was appointed responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee of the WPK, the first time in history a former premier had been so appointed—and he has been in that post ever since. Appointing a person who has served as premier as a responsible secretary to the remote area of North Hamgyong Province can be construed as an extremely unusual personnel move, but from the fact that North Hamgyong Province borders on the Soviet Union and that major industrial facilities are located there, the assignment is more aimed at stressing economic cooperation with the Soviet Union rather than a demotion.

Physically Kang is of average height and solidly built. He is regarded as strong-willed and tenacious and a man of initiative and drive.

A second generation partisan, and a key figure who played a vanguard role in laying the foundation for Kim Chong-il's rule and personality cult, he received in April 1972 the Order of Kim Il-song plus the Order of Labor,



and the Order of National Flag First Class. He is reportedly a cousin of Kim Il-song—the son of Kim Il-song's mother's older sister.

### **Kang Yang-uk**

[Text] Formerly vice president of the Republic. Died in January 1983.

Kang Yang-uk was born in 1903 in Taedong-gun, South Pyongan Province. From the time of his graduation from the Pyongyang Theological Seminary in 1923 until the liberation, he worked as a pastor in Pyongyang. In November 1945, the year of the liberation, he became involved in politics as a member of the Standing Committee of the North Korean Democratic Party. In January 1946 he became vice chairman of the Pyongyang Provincial Party Committee. In February of that year became secretary general of the North Korean Provisional Committee, and in November served as the chairman of the central committee of the North Korean Christian Union.

After the regime was established in September 1948, he was chosen as secretary general of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee and received the Order of National Flag 1st Class and the Order of Labor in October 1954. In November 1957 he became vice chairman of the North Korea Democratic Party, and in September 1959 was chosen vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and number-two man in the legislative branch.

In the 1960's, in his capacity of vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, he made a tour of Middle Eastern, African, and Asian nations, and in early 1971 he assumed the post of chairman of the Committee for Foreign Cultural Relations, the "window" for non-official external diplomatic activity, and contributed particularly to establishing diplomatic relations with states of the Middle East and Africa. With the revision of the power structure accompanying the constitutional revision in December 1972, he took over the post of vice president and member of the Central People's Committee.

He was of average height with a balanced, wide, round face and was always smiling behind his thick-rimmed glasses.

Because he had grown up in a religious environment, he had a scrupulous personality.

Kang Yang-uk died in January 1983 at the age of 80. He was known to be a maternal great uncle of Kim Il-song.

### **Kang Hyon-su**

[Text] First deputy chairman of the Auditing Commission of the WPK Central Committee.

Born in Pyongyang in 1925, Kang started out as a party official in the mid-1960's thanks to the influence of Kim Il-song. He graduated from Pyongyang Academy after

the liberation and went through the WPK Central Party School and served for a time as vice chairman of the WPK Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee, but in 1950 went into the army, from which time he was active as a military commissar. In early 1960 he served as military attache in the North Korean Embassy in the Soviet Union and became deputy director of the KPA General Political Bureau. The next year, 1965, he finished his military career as political bureau director in the Ministry of Public Security, and in 1966 began his career as a party official in the post of responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee.

However, not only did his intellectual level seem to be only average, but his level of political theory also did not seem too high, so in 1969 he was transferred to the position of director of the Administrative Department of the WPK Central Committee, after which he served as chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee in 1974, and became first vice chairman of the Auditing Commission of the WPK Central Committee in 1976, where he remains today. He was a member of Central Committee of the WPK at the Fifth Party Congress in 1970 and the Sixth Party Congress in 1980, and has been elected as a deputy to every Supreme People's Assembly from the 4th to the 8th.

He is slightly stout, and not too tall. His face is square and he has small eyes and a large mouth. He is known to be a nervous type and has a violent and mercurial personality. He is said to lack organization and guidance skills as well. His removal from the post of responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee stemmed from a run-in with a work-team chief while on an inspection tour of a factory and from an incident involving a workers' riot in the mid-1960's.

His ability to maintain his position as a party official despite these character flaws and lack of talent is said to be because of a second-cousin relationship with Kim Il-song on his mother's side.

### **Kang Hui-won**

[Text] Candidate member of the Politburo of the WPK, responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee, and concurrently chairman of the Pyongyang People's Committee.

Born in Pyongyang in 1921, Kang was jailed by the Japanese before the liberation. He joined the communist movement at the end of the 1930's and was arrested and spent 3 years in prison. In 1948 he studied at the University of Politics and Economics in Moscow, and returned to Pyongyang in 1952 to begin his career as a party official.

Becoming a vice minister of electricity in July 1958, he rose to director of the Light Industry Department of the Central Committee of the WPK in 1960. In September of the next year (1961), he was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fourth Party Congress. He was named chairman of the Pyongyang

Municipal People's Committee in 1962, where he served for 10 years. In 1971 he was transferred to the post of chairman of the Hamhung Municipal People's Committee, but in 1973 he returned to the capital as chairman of the Pyongyang Administrative Committee. Afterwards, in 1977, he was transferred to the post of vice premier of the State Administration Council, after which he again changed jobs and became responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1980. Then in 1984 he returned to Pyongyang as chairman of the Administrative and Economic Committee.

Kang Hui-won succeeded So Yun-sok as responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang People's Committee in November 1986, assuming concurrently the post of chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee for Pyongyang City and is solely responsible for party and administrative work relating to Pyongyang City. Kang Hui-won has his own personal views concerning construction problems and especially demonstrated his peculiar ability in Pyongyang City construction, and is known to have gained Kim Il-song's full confidence.

A man of average height and somewhat stout with a roundish face. Kang is impatient and sharp-tempered, but is considered to be a man of broad vision and thoroughgoing and resourceful business skills.

#### **Kye Ung-tae**

[Text] Member of the WPK Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee.

Born into a well-to-do family in Kilchu, North Hamgyong Province in 1918, he graduated from Dasheng Middle School in Lungjing, Manchuria, and later studied for a while at Pongchon [Korean pronunciation] College in Manchuria.

After the liberation he studied at the Senior Party School in the Soviet Union and in 1951 he started out as a section chief in the International Department of the Central Committee of the WPK. In 1957 he became deputy director of the International Department and in February 1960 was picked to be a vice foreign minister, taking charge of diplomacy involving the trade sector. During the period from November 1960 until January 1962 he visited North Vietnam, Burma, Bulgaria, Romania as head of trade delegations, and in recognition of his efforts toward improving trade relations with these states he was promoted to vice minister of trade, launching his career in the trade sector.

In October 1963 he became concurrently vice chairman of the Committee for Promotion of International Trade, a sort of social organization charged with setting up trade relations with countries with which North Korea did not have diplomatic relations, participating in trade talks and exhibitions, and overseeing foreign and domestic trade organizations. In this position he contributed to

concluding trade agreements and establishing diplomatic relations with Middle Eastern and African countries. Recognized for his ability in the trade field, he became chairman of the Committee for Promotion of International Trade in April 1967. When the fourth cabinet was formed in October of that year, he was appointed minister of trade and became responsible for substantive trade issues.

During the period 1970 to 1972 he visited Syria, Egypt, Algeria and Iraq several times and worked to promote trade relations and refurbish North Korea's image. He even visited Yugoslavia and succeeded in improving their chilly bilateral relations. He was reappointed as minister of trade of the State Administration Council in 1972, and finally—after 10 years overseeing trade matters since being named vice minister of Trade in December 1967—in December 1976 was promoted to vice premier and concurrently minister of trade.

Kye was transferred to the post of responsible secretary of the WPK South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee for a while in 1980, but later was demoted from full member to candidate member of the Politburo. He was appointed WPK secretary in 1983, and again moved up to full member of the Politburo in March 1988. He is recognized for his practical political and technical skills in the field of external trade relations.

He has a flat, angular face and is of average build and height. He is said to have a formalistic, conservative disposition and is a man of principle.

#### **Kong Chin-tae**

[Text] Chairman of the People's Service Committee of the State Administration Council.

Born in Kaesong in 1925, Kong is a specialist who majored in statistics in college.

After the liberation, he defected to North Korea, where he graduated from Kim Il-song University. From his position as deputy director of the External Economic General Bureau of the cabinet in 1964, he served in various posts: president of the Solbi [Plant] Import Trading Company in July 1967, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee in August 1969, and chairman of that committee in June 1971, taking control of the external economic affairs sector. In December 1972 he was reappointed as minister of external economic affairs of the State Administration Council. In that post he undertook considerable overseas travel, primarily to Poland and the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden to procure the foreign exchange needed for North Korea's 6-Year Plan, thereby contributing greatly to plant import negotiations.

For these services he was named secretary general of the Secretariat of the State Administration Council in October 1974. In June of the following year (1975), he

was appointed a vice premier of the State Administration Council. In 1976 he was chosen to be a full member of the WPK Central Committee, and in 1980 became a candidate member of the Politburo, but was removed from that position in February 1986. He left the post of vice premier in October 1985 and now serves only as chairman of the People's Service Committee.

He has a round face and large ears and a good physique. Because he was a statistics specialist, he is good at numbers and has an excellent memory. He is serious about everything and his abilities in the field of external economics are highly regarded.

### **Kim Kang-hwan**

[Text] Member of the WPK Military Committee and concurrently director of the Military Department of the Central Committee. (Lieutenant General)

Born in Pyongyang in 1931, Kim is one of the key military cadres who are loyal to Kim Chong-il. He graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy, which is attended by the surviving children of deceased revolutionaries. During the Korean war he saw combat as a platoon leader and company commander. After the truce he went to the Soviet Union and studied at the Soviet Military University and the Military Academy, and received formal training in military science, technology, and theory.

He was a guidance officer in the Military Department of the Central Committee in 1962, served as deputy director of a department under the Operations Bureau of the Ministry of National Defense in 1965, and advanced to the position of deputy director of the Operations Bureau in 1972. Kim was elected candidate member of the Central Committee in 1976 and was named director of the Operations Bureau in 1977. In 1980 he was promoted to full member of the Central Committee, member of the Military Committee, candidate member of the Politburo, and vice chief of the General Staff of the KPA. In 1983 he moved up to director of the Military Department of the Central Committee and distinguished himself as a leading military official. In 1986 he was reelected candidate member of the Politburo.

He has a round, flat face and a slightly receding hairline and large eyes. Kim Kang-hwan's rise to prominence dates back to the KPA party plenum of 1975, which Kim Chong-il convened to establish the unitary guidance system in the military. At that time he surfaced as a major military figure together with O Kuk-yol, Kim Tu-nam, and other second generation revolutionaries who demonstrated unquestioning loyalty to Kim Chong-il.

He is reputed to be a man of great drive and a sharp mind and intrepid character.

### **Kim Kwang-chin [1]**

[Text] Full member of the Central Committee of the WPK and vice minister of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. General of the KPA.

Kim was born in Beijiandao, Manchuria in 1913. He is a former artillery officer who joined the Soviet Army and graduated from the Soviet Army artillery technical school.

He fought in the Korean war and in 1958 served as chief of staff of the Artillery Command. He became deputy commander of the Artillery Command in 1963 and commander of artillery in 1967. After being selected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in 1970, he visited China later that year with a military delegation. Since being elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in 1972 he has been reelected as a deputy to the sixth, seventh, and eighth. In 1984 was promoted to full member of the WPK Central Committee. He left his position as commander of artillery when he was named vice minister of people's armed forces in August 1985.

As one of the old guard military who personally had a hand in creating the North Korean Army, General Kim Kwang-chin enjoys the deep trust of Kim Il-song especially for his contributions to strengthening the fighting potential of and modernizing the Artillery Command.

He is of average height, heavysset, and has a round face.

Not only is he decisive, but he is known to have a vigorous and bighearted character. He has received the Order of Kim Il-song, the Title of Hero [of the DPRK], and the Order of National Flag.

### **Kim Kwang-chin [2]**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Kim was born in Nampo, South Pyongan Province in 1921. After the liberation in 1945 he attended the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy, then studied at Kim Chaek Engineering College. He then went to the Soviet Union, where he studied as a researcher at the Leningrad General Engineering College. He was named vice minister of first machine industry in 1969, making his way up to the post of minister of first economic industry in 1979. He was elected as candidate member of the Central Committee of the WPK in 1981 and promoted to full member in 1983. He was elected deputy to the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly in 1982 and to the 8th in 1986.

One of the senior economic technocrats with a knowledge of modern science and technology, Kim Kwang-chin is a highly trusted official who has contributed greatly to modernizing and expanding such major industrial facilities such as the Huichon and Kusong machine tool factories and the Kumsong Tractor Factory.



As an expert in the machinery and metallurgical sectors, Kim Kwang-chin is a perceptive problem-solver in the field of heavy industry, and has visited Eastern Europe as well as China and the Soviet Union with party and government economic delegations.

He has a slightly flat face and stout physique and the pupils of his eyes are characterized by their yellowish color. He is an extrovert who is easy going and sociable and always has a bright expression. He is known to enjoy all kinds of sports. Kim Kwang-chin was awarded the Order of National Flag and the Soldier's Medal of Honor.

#### **Kim Kuk-tae**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and director of a Central Committee department.

Kim Kuk-tae was born in 1924 in Songjin, North Hamgyong Province and is a graduate of the first class of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy. He graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied at Moscow University in the Soviet Union. He worked his way up to deputy director of the Cadre Department of the WPK Central Committee in 1961 and was promoted in August 1963 to the position of deputy director of the KPA General Political Bureau with the rank of lieutenant general.

He was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee at the Party Representatives Conference in 1966 and served as deputy in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Supreme People's Assembly. He advanced to the post of director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the WPK Central Committee in 1967, and was in overall charge of directing and overseeing the political and ideological indoctrination and propaganda work of the WPK. He has received the patronage of Kim Il-song by creating new directions in consolidating the unitary ideological system of the party by reorganizing the Party Historical Research Rooms into Kim Il-song Revolutionary History Rooms.

In 1974 he occupied the post of president of the WPK Senior Party School, then served a 3-year stint in the diplomatic service as ambassador to Ethiopia from October 1977 until July 1980. He was reappointed to the post of WPK Central Committee department director in 1979 and was elected full member of the WPK at the Fifth and Sixth Party Congresses in 1970 and 1980 respectively.

One of the WPK's ideologues and theorists, at the time of the Sixth Party Congress he personally had a hand in drafting major party documents such as the report of the Sixth Party Congress and resolutions as a member of the credentials committee and the resolutions committee.

He is tall and well proportioned but he is known to be in ill health and suffers from heart disease. In recognition of his contributions to the Kim Il-song personality cult as part of the party's political-ideological indoctrination

work, he was awarded the Order of Kim Il-song and the Order of National Flag. He reportedly is not a self-promoter and has a gentle disposition and a sharp mind.

Kim Kuk-tae is reportedly the eldest son of Kim Chaek, who commanded a front-line military unit during the Korean war and died during the war as a cabinet vice minister.

#### **Kim Ki-nam**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and first deputy director of a Central Committee Department.

Born in 1926 into a ironworker's family, he joined an anti-Japanese underground circle while a student at the Sungsil Middle School in Pyongyang and was arrested and jailed for his activities. After the liberation he graduated from Kim Il-song University, then went to the Soviet Union, where he studied at Moscow International University. In 1952 he served as counselor of the Foreign Ministry and then ambassador to China. In 1958 he was appointed as a section chief in the International Department of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Ki-nam returned to the Soviet Union a second time in the early 1960's for advanced studies, this time as a researcher at the Senior Party School. In 1966 he worked as deputy director of the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department, where Kim Chong-il had served. In 1973 Kim became editor of the party theoretical organ KULLOJA, then in 1976 took the position of editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN and chairman of the Journalists Union.

In 1977 and 1978 he visited Tanzania, China, and Spain as head of party delegations and to China and Japan as head of NODONG SINMUN delegations. He was appointed as director of a WPK Central Committee department in 1986. Recently he has been active as the first deputy director of a department.

An outstanding theoretician among WPK cadre, he also has excellent writing skills and never fails to participate in the drafting of Kim Il-song's reports to party congresses. Of medium height, he is somewhat chubby and his left shoulder has a pronounced droop. He is an iron hand in a velvet glove and is known to be smooth in human relations and gets along well with people. He has received the Order of Kim Il-song.

#### **Kim Ki-son**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and responsible secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Party Committee.

Born in Hwangju, Hwanghae Province in 1929, he is from an ironworker's family, which is considered the "basic class."

Prior to the liberation he worked as a steel worker, and after the liberation was a WPK activist. After graduating from the WPK Central Party School, he began his career

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in 1953 as deputy director of the Organization Department of the Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee. In 1955 he studied at the Soviet Communist Party Senior Party School, gaining theoretical knowledge, then became vice chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee. In 1965 Kim became the responsible secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee, and was appointed chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee in 1967.

He became a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in 1970 and was named chairman of the North Hwanghae Province Administrative Committee in 1972. In 1979 he served briefly as chairman of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee, then assumed the post of responsible secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee of the WPK. He was elected as a full member of the party Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress. Subsequently, he moved to the post of responsible secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Party Committee in 1983. In November 1967 he was elected as deputy to the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly, and has continued to be reelected until the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

A mid-level party official who came up through the ranks, Kim Ki-son is considered a core member of the "basic class" because—in addition to being from a working class background—his father and brothers and sisters were killed by the U.S. military in the Korean war.

Physically, he is slightly corpulent and has a large head and a narrow forehead and small eyes. He reportedly has a meticulous character, is poker-faced and is obsessed with class position and principles.

### **Kim Tong-kyu**

[Text] Formerly vice president of the DPRK. Purged in 1978.

Kim Tong-kyu was born in 1915, but it is not known where he was born, spent his childhood, and went to school. Although unverified, it is said that he graduated from the Moscow Senior Party School. Together with the other first generation revolutionaries, he was active in Manchuria with Kim Il-song in the mid-1930's. It is known that in the early 1940's he fled to the Soviet Union, where he lived in hiding. After the liberation he did not return to Korea with Kim Il-song, and there is no record of his career prior to 1957.

His name began to gain prominence in November 1958 when he assumed the post of consul general in Nakhodka, Soviet Union, and at the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961 he joined the ranks of key party members when he unexpectedly became a full member of the WPK Central Committee. One year later, in August 1962, he advanced to the position of director of the Administration Department of the Central Committee. At the Second Party Conference of October 1966 he became a candidate member of the Political Committee of the WPK and responsible secretary of the

Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee. And in November 1967 he became a member of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

However, it was from the time of his appointment to the position of director of the International Department of the WPK Central Committee in April 1969 that he began to gain the trust of Kim Il-song, and as a result of his contributions in the field of foreign relations he became a full member of the Political Committee in December 1969, making him one of the most powerful members of the leadership structure. Moreover, in June 1971 he was elected secretary in charge of international affairs of the WPK Secretariat—the highest policymaking and implementation organ—thus becoming the senior official directly supervising foreign policy and activities. After becoming the foreign policy chief, he led a party delegation in November 1971 on his first official visit to the West European countries of Denmark, Netherlands, and Luxembourg, and rendered distinguished services in establishing diplomatic relations with Denmark.

In December 1972 Kim Tong-kyu became a member of the newly created Central People's Committee and chairman of the Credentials Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. In February 1973 he led a party delegation on visits to the Soviet Union, Romania, Hungary, East Germany, and Poland—with which relations had become estranged because of Pyongyang's closer ties with China—in an attempt to improve relations. At the time of the visit to Pyongyang in June 1973 of first secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party he received the White Lion Medal, Czechoslovakia's highest award. Subsequently, in November 1974 at the fourth session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly, he was elected vice president, and accompanied Kim Il-song as part of his official entourage when the President visited China in April 1975, and the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe in May. In 1976 he visited Vietnam as the head of a party delegation and made a report at the ceremonies commemorating the founding of the North Korean Army in 1977, but after 1978 he vanished from sight.

His purge was confirmed at the Sixth Party Congress of October 1980.

### **Kim Tu-nam**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and member of the Military Committee. (General).

He was born in a slash-and-burn farming area in Pyok-tong, North Pyongan Province. Before the liberation he worked as a laborer in a chemical factory and after the liberation he went through the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and the Hoeryong Officers School and entered the Military College in 1956. In 1963 he traveled to the Soviet Union, where he studied at the Soviet Military Academy and received a formal, modern military education. In 1965 he served as chief of the Responsible Guidance Officer Section of the of the WPK



Central Committee Military Department and moved up to the position of deputy director of the Military Department in 1975.

In 1980, with the advent of Kim Chong-il, he was chosen director of the Military Department and in 1982 he was selected as a candidate member of the Politburo and moved into the top echelon of the power structure. In 1986, however, he was removed from the Politburo candidate membership rolls and about this time turned over the directorship of the Military Department to Kim Kang-hwan. He was elected as a deputy to the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly in 1982 and reelected to the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

One of the key officials in the North Korean military, Kim Tu-nam comes from the ranks of the elite. Because his father had died while serving under Kim Il-song's command, he was able to receive a formal education thanks to the concern of Kim Il-song. He also reputedly has special ties to Kim Chong-il and plays an important role in consolidating Kim Chong-il's unitary ruling system in the military. That is, by virtue of having served as Kim Chong-il's military adviser, he rose to prominence with the establishment of the Kim Chong-il political structure and advanced to the rank of four-star general in April 1985.

He is a tall, thin man with large, somewhat sunken eyes. He is very hard to please and is regarded as a dynamic man who moves quickly.

#### **Kim Man-kum**

[Text] Formerly chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. Deceased.

Born in 1911 in South Pyongan Province, Kim Man-kum was an agricultural specialist who was engaged solely in agricultural issues for some 30 years. Prior to the liberation in 1945 he participated in communist activities, then after the liberation studied at a cadre school in the Soviet Union. He was director of the WPK Organization Department in 1953 and began to gain prominence when he was promoted to chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee in 1956.

At the Third Party Congress held in April of that year, he was promoted to full member of the WPK Central Committee and concurrently director of the Central Committee Agriculture Department. From this time forward his ability in the field of agriculture was recognized and he devoted himself exclusively to the agricultural sector. He served as minister of agriculture in the second cabinet in 1959 and director of the Agriculture Department of the Central Committee in 1961. The next year he took over the office of chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the Third cabinet, a post he held for 8 years. In 1970 he left his position as chairman of the Agriculture Committee and was named vice premier of the cabinet. In November of that year he was chosen candidate member of the Political Committee of the

Central Committee and visited China, and African countries such as Algeria, Sudan and Uganda.

He was elected chairman of the Central People's Committee in December 1972 and renamed to the posts of vice premier of the State Administration Council, and concurrently chairman of the Agriculture Committee. In September 1973, however, he was held responsible for failures in the agricultural sector and dismissed from his positions as candidate member of the Political Committee, vice premier, and chairman of the Agriculture Committee. For the next 3 years he was associated with the Fatherland Front, a sinecure, then in 1978 was named chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he played an active role as a member of the executive, and as a member of the Party Congress Resolutions Drafting Committee, but died in November 1984 at the age of 73.

On the heavyset side, he was bald and had a somewhat long face.

#### **Kim Pyong-yul**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and concurrently responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee

Born in 1926 in Pyoktong, North Pyongan Province, he is a loyal, influential party official and the surviving son of a deceased revolutionary who was from the working class.

Before the liberation Kim Pyong-yul worked as a laborer in a pulp factory. After the liberation he functioned as a Communist Party activist and graduated from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and the Kim Il-song University. He began in 1955 as a guidance worker in the WPK School Education Department, and in 1959 he became a section chief in the School Education Department. He moved up to deputy director of the department in 1965 and first deputy director in 1966. Subsequently in 1968 he became ensconced in the position of responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee. His incumbency lasted a record 15 years.

He was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee in 1970 and was elected as deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly at every election from the fourth in 1967 until the eighth. He visited the Soviet Union as a member of a party-government delegation in 1972 and China as a member of a North Pyongan Provincial Party delegation in 1979. Except for a short interval when he was transferred in 1974 to the post of chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, he has worked since 1968 as the responsible secretary of the North Pyongyang Provincial Party Committee.

Because his father was one of Kim Il-song's subordinates and died taking part in revolutionary activities, Kim

Pyong-yul was given a formal education thanks to Kim Il-song. He reportedly is exceptionally loyal to Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

Somewhat tall, he is of average build. His face is oval-shaped and his nose is pointed. He is known to be a very practical, hard worker and a decisive person who, once he has made up his mind, carries the work through to the end.

### Kim Pok-sin

[Text] Candidate member of the WPK Politburo and vice premier and concurrently chairman of the Light Industry Committee.

Born in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province in 1926, she stands out as a typical figure among the female officials from a working-class background. Prior to the liberation in 1945 she quit middle school and worked as a factory worker. After the liberation she joined the WPK and made her living primarily as a manager of textile and garment factories until the Korean war.

In the mid-1950's she completed the course of study at the WPK Central Party School and at the time of the second cabinet in September 1958 she slowly began to achieve prominence as vice minister of light industry. She served for a short time as deputy director of the WPK Light Industry Department in 1960, and the following year became vice minister of light industry of the second cabinet. In 1966 Kim Pok-sin was named director of the Pyongyang City General Bureau of Local Industry where she was responsible for civilian daily necessities for Pyongyang. Afterwards, she became minister of textile industry in the fourth cabinet in 1971 and was chosen director of the General Bureau of Textiles and Garments and concurrently vice chairman of the Light Industry Committee of the State Administration Council.

In the 1980's her activities became more prominent. In 1982 she was elected vice premier of the State Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the Light Industry Committee and full member of the WPK Central Committee. She moved up into the top ranks of the leadership hierarchy at the Eighth Plenum of the WPK Sixth Central Committee in November 1983 when she became a candidate member of the Politburo. In 1985 she assumed the concurrent posts of vice premier of the State Administration Council and chairman of the External Economic Affairs Committee. Following the reorganization of government offices in June 1988, she moved to the post of chairman of the Light Industry Committee and served concurrently as vice premier. In addition, she has been elected as deputy to every Supreme People's Assembly from the second to the eighth.

Kim Pok-sin is reportedly a widow—her husband was killed during the Korean war—and is regarded as the foremost expert in the field of textiles and clothing

because of the knowledge acquired through her experiences as a textile worker and the skills and knowledge gained through her experience as manager of textile mill and clothing factory, and in the course of her overseas inspection tours.

She is somewhat large-bodied for a woman and her face is round and flat. She is known to have a masculine personality and is broad-minded and tenacious.

For her contributions to the field of light industry, especially textiles and clothing sectors, she has received the Order of Kim Il-song and the title of Labor Hero.

### Kim Pong-yul

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and vice minister of People's Armed Forces. (General)

He was born in 1917 in the Soviet Union and grew up there—his parents had immigrated to the Soviet Far East in the decade of the 1910's. After graduating from Leningrad University he joined the Soviet Army in the late 1930's and became an artillery officer. After the liberation he returned to Pyongyang and served as an interpreter in the Security Staff School, and Soviet Army Chief of Special [Secret] Service. He was promoted to senior colonel in the KPA at the end of 1946 and became vice president of the Kaechon Security Cadre School in South Pyongan Province in 1947 and served as deputy director of the Organization Department of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee in 1948. After the Korean war broke out, he was promoted in September 1950 to major general. Late that year he became the commander of artillery in the supreme headquarters, in which post he participated in the war.

Kim Pong-yul first met Kim Il-song when the former entered Pyongyang after the liberation as a Soviet artillery officer engaged in setting up the North Korean Army. Following that, he transferred from the Soviet Communist Party to the North Korean Workers Party in 1947. In April 1952, during the Korean war, he was promoted to lieutenant general and after the truce, in August 1954, he was named chief of staff of the Artillery Command.

At the Third Party Congress in April 1956 he was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in September 1957 was appointed vice minister of national defense in the second cabinet. The following year he visited the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia with a military delegation and was promoted to the rank of colonel general in October of 1960. Subsequently, in December 1972 he was chosen vice minister of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces—the former Ministry of National Defense. In the 1980's he was promoted to the rank of general and moved up to full member of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Pong-yul—who for 30 years since he began as vice minister of national defense until the present organized and directed the administrative setup and planning of

the North Korean Army—has remained unscathed despite the purges and dismissals of generals with Soviet-military backgrounds in the late 1950's and 1960's. The reason is said to be his unswerving loyalty—which he regards as a matter of principle—and his superior practical organizational ability.

He is tall and heavyset and his eyes somewhat slanted to the side. He has a stubborn temperament and is regarded as an inflexible man of principle. On his 70th birthday in December 1987 he was awarded the Title of Hero, the Order of National Flag 1st Class, and the Order of Kim Il-song.

### **Kim Pong-chu**

[Text] Member of WPK Central Committee and concurrently chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

Kim Pong-chu was born in Pyongyang in 1930. After the liberation he graduated from Kim Il-song University and began working in the WPK Organization Department in the mid-1950's. He was deputy chief of the organization section of the General Political Bureau of the KPA in 1963. In 1965 he entered the WPK Central Party School and upon graduation in 1968 was named as responsible guidance worker in the WPK Central Committee Department of Organization and Guidance.

He became deputy director of the Department of Organization and Guidance in 1972 and in November 1976 served as president of the Kumsong Political College. In June of the following year (1977) he was appointed as chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions, where he remains to this day.

Since becoming chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions he has made a number of overseas visits: to Hungary and Yugoslavia in November 1978; to China in March 1980; and to the Soviet Union in May 1980. He was selected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress [in October 1980] and rose to full member in 1985.

He has a tall, imposing frame and a broad forehead. He reputedly has a straightforward character, which has led to numerous clashes with others and given rise to many problems.

He reportedly is a younger cousin of Kim Il-song and a younger brother of Kim Chang-chu, who is currently a vice premier of the State Administration Council.

### **Kim Song-ae**

[Text] Kim Il-song's second wife and chairman of the Women's Union.

Born in Haeju, Hwanghae Province in 1940 [as published], she has one son and three daughters by Kim Il-song. She attended Haeju Women's Normal College, then transferred to Pyongyang Women's Normal College. While in her junior year the Korean war broke out

and she went into the North Korean Army, where she served as a propaganda guidance worker in the KPA Cultural Department.

She became acquainted with Kim Il-song when she presented him with a bouquet of flowers while he was on an inspection trip in Chunghwa, South Pyongan Province in April 1956. It is known that she subsequently came to work as a secretary in the cabinet Escort Bureau (Kim Il-song's bodyguard office) and from that time the two became close. Kim Il-song had not remarried after his first wife, Kim Chong-suk, died in 1949, but in 1963 he finally married Kim Song-ae on the advice of influential party figures such as Choe Yong-kon and Kim Il.

After her marriage to Kim Il-song, she became vice chairman of the Women's Union in September 1965 and at the Fifth Party Congress in 1970 she rose to full member of the WPK Central Committee. At the fourth congress of the Women's Union in October 1971 she was appointed chairman of the Women's Union. She also accompanied Kim Il-song on his visit to Romania, Algeria, Mauritania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia in May 1975.

She is on comparatively good terms with her brother-in-law Kim Yong-chu, but from the time Kim Chong-il began to emerge as Kim Il-song's successor in September 1973, discord gradually began to arise between herself and Kim Chong-il. Kim Song-ae had dismissed three or four county responsible secretaries, holding them responsible for problems in the Women's Union sericulture project. Not only did Kim Chong-il restore the officials to their former positions, but when a New Year's photo of the Central Committee was being taken in January 1974, Kim Chong-il instructed that a chair not be put out for her. In particular she had been uncooperative in building up the personality cult for Kim Chong-suk—Kim Chong-il's natural mother—but at the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Union in November 1975 she praised Kim Chong-suk as "an indomitable Communist fighter." This was interpreted as an attempt to avoid a clash with Kim Chong-il.

She has received a number of decorations including the State Medal of the Republic of Zaire, the National Order of the Great Commander of Mali, the Gabon Order of Merit, the Guyana Order of Special Merit and the Great Cross of Meritorious Achievement of the Central African Republic.

### **Kim Si-hak**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and director of a department under the Central Committee.

Kim Si-hak was born in 1923 in Sunchon, Pyongyang in 1923. He was the son of a primary school teacher. He is one of those influential party elites who received a higher education, entering Kim Il-song University immediately after the liberation and going to the Soviet Union for studies at Moscow University after the Korean war.



From the late 1950's until the early 1960's he worked in the Organization and Guidance Department of the WPK Central Committee and rose through the ranks to the post of deputy director of that department. In 1969 he became chairman of the central committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth (LSWY). At the Fifth Party Congress of 1970 he was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee, after which he was reelected as chairman of the LSWY in June 1971. In December of the following year he was dismissed from that post, and in 1973 was named chairman of the Central Broadcasting Committee. He visited a number of countries as head of Broadcasting Committee delegations from the mid-1970's until the early 1980's, and contributed to expanding cooperation in the field of broadcasting. These countries included: Pakistan, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Japan, and China.

He was reelected a member of the Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in 1980 and has been elected deputy to each Supreme People's Assembly since the Fifth. Around the end of 1981 he was dismissed from his post as chairman of the Central Broadcasting Committee and selected to be a deputy department director in the Central Committee, a post in which he is still active.

While he was in the post of chairman of the Central Broadcasting Committee from 1973 until 1980, Kim Si-hak gained the trust of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il by firmly consolidating the personality cult of Kim Chong-il and the unitary guidance system in the broadcasting sector.

A tall, handsome man with a wide face and broad forehead, he is reportedly a big-hearted man of steady nerves, courage, and bold drive.

Kim Si-hak is reported to be a cousin of Kim Il-song's present wife, Kim Song-ae, but is regarded as strongly loyal to Kim Chong-il.

### **Kim Yong-nam**

[Text] Member of the Politburo of the WPK and vice premier of the Administration Council.

Born in Myongchon, North Hamgyong Province in 1925, he is a foreign affairs expert who has worked in the field of diplomacy and external relations for over 30 years. The son of a railway worker, Kim Yong-nam went to Kim Il-song University after the liberation in 1945. After the Korean war he studied together with Kim Yong-chu (Kim Il-song's younger brother) at Moscow University in the Soviet Union, and began his party career in 1956 as a section chief in the International Department of the WPK Central Committee.

He was chosen as vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries in August 1960 and accompanied Kim Il-song as part of his official entourage during his visits to the Soviet Union and China in June 1961. Around the time of the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961, he became vice chairman

of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee along with a promotion to deputy director of the International Department of the Central Committee. In October of the following year he was transferred to the post of vice minister of foreign affairs and played a major role in furthering relations with the Soviet Union and East European communist states in the early 1960's and in making inroads into the Middle East and Africa in the late 1960's.

He first began to move into the power hierarchy when he was elected as full member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970. After being named first deputy director of the International Department in 1972, and director in December of that year, his position in the power structure started to change. It is important to note that his appointment as director of the party International Bureau coincided with the opening of the first North-South dialogue in a quarter of a century.

Subsequently, in February 1974, he began a dramatic rise in the hierarchy. He became a key power holder at the time of the 26th anniversary of the founding of the regime in September of that year, when he was chosen to be WPK secretary in charge of international affairs and concurrently candidate member of the Political Committee.

From this time he presided over a substantive era in the foreign relations sector and even participated as deputy head of the North Korean delegation to the 61st IPU [International Parliamentarians Union] held in Japan in October 1974.

Since 1974 he has contributed greatly to expanding contacts with Japan, and when progressive Japanese leaders visit Pyongyang he always holds discussions with them, playing the role of the standard-bearer of party and governmental diplomacy. He made a round of visits to Romania, Italy, France, Portugal and Spain as a special emissary of Kim Il-song in 1978 and about this time was promoted to full member of the Political Committee of the WPK. At the Sixth Party Congress held in October 1980 he was active as a member of the party executive, a member of the party resolutions drafting committee, a member of the Politburo, and secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat. In June 1983, however, he left his post as WPK secretary. Later, in December of that year, he moved up to vice premier of the State Administration Council and foreign minister, and is now overseeing diplomatic affairs.

A polished diplomat, he has a relatively neat and trim figure and wears thick frame glasses. He is known to have a meticulous and genial temperament and reportedly excels at secret, behind-the-scenes diplomacy rather than open diplomacy.

He has received the Order of Kim Il-song and the Order of the National Flag.

### **Kim Yong-chu**

[Text] Kim Il-song's younger brother.

Kim Yong-chu was born in 1922 in Mangyongdae, Taedong-kun, South Pyongan Province, the second son of Kim Hyong-chik. He was born 10 years after Kim Il-song, but there are no records that show accurately where he spent his childhood years. He supposedly was active as a member of the partisans' Children's Corps in the latter half of the 1930's. After the liberation he studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow University and the Moscow Senior Party School.

When Kim Il-song court-martialed the Yi Sung-yop clique in March 1953 when carrying out a wholesale purge of the South Korean Labor Party cadres, Kim Yong-chu was the secretary at the trial. In 1954 he entered the WPK Organization and Guidance Department as a guidance worker and began to gain prominence in 1957 when he became a section chief in that department. When the Central Committee intensive guidance work was undertaken in 1958, he was the prime architect who moved the purge of the populace into high gear.

He assumed higher visibility when he was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fourth Party Congress in 1961. In particular, he was promoted in June 1966 to the post of director of the Organization and Guidance Department and at the Second Party Representatives Conference in October of that year he was promoted to secretary of the party Central Committee and candidate member of the Political Committee. In December 1969 he became a full member of the Political Committee and concurrently secretary of the Central Committee. At the Fifth Party Congress of November 1970 he advanced six positions in the power hierarchy, and was second in power after Kim Il-song and widely regarded as his successor.

As director of the party's Organization and Guidance Department, he signed the 4 July 1972 North-South Joint Statement and was named chairman of the Pyongyang side of the joint committee of the North-South Coordinating Committee. When joint chairmen meetings and North-South Coordinating Committee meetings were held, however, he did not show up, on the excuse that he was confined to bed because of illness. He also was the man behind the suspension of the dialogue on 28 August 1973.

Although Kim Yong-chu had held great power, he gradually began to lose it in 1972. Although he had held on to his position as secretary in charge of organization and guidance until early 1973, with the rise of Kim Chong-il around that time, he had to relinquish the position. After that, he held only the positions of a Political Committee member with no real power and vice premier of the administration council, a post he assumed in February 1974. His domestic and foreign activities also were curtailed.

After becoming vice premier of the Administration Council, he visited Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Romania and Hungary as Kim Il-song's special emissary and with the exception of a visit to Romania as head of a party and government delegation in August of 1974, he did not take part in any activities of any significance that we are aware of. After issuing a statement in 1975 observing the third anniversary of the announcement of the 4 July Joint Statement, he disappeared from sight and is even rumored to have been purged.

### **Kim Yong-sun**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and first deputy director of the WPK International Department.

Born in 1924 in Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province, Kim Yong-sun is one of the foremost party officials in the field of foreign relations who has expertise in non-aligned nation and capitalist states. He was born into the family of a worker at the Hoeryong Coal Mine and and went to middle school in Lungjing in Manchuria. After the liberation he went to Kim Il-song University and in the mid-1950's studied as a researcher at Moscow University.

He began as a guidance worker in the International Department of the WPK, but was forced to rest for a time because of ill health, then in 1966 he was renamed section chief in the International Affairs Department of the party. From August 1970 until February 1972—1 year and 6 months—he lived abroad as the ambassador to Egypt and in early 1973 became the vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. In this position he visited East European countries such as Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria, contributing to the strengthening of bilateral relations by concluding cultural exchange and scientific cooperation agreements with those countries.

After moving up to the position of deputy director of the International Affairs Department of the party in 1976 he advanced to director of the department and secretary of the Central Committee. In 1985, however, he was removed from his position of secretary and demoted to first deputy director of the International Department. He is now active on the diplomatic front, dealing with capitalist states and nonaligned nations.

He is tall and slender and has large ears. He has a subdued and simple personality and is considered to have excellent verbal skills. His health is known to be poor.

### **Kim Won-chon**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and responsible secretary of the Yanggang Provincial Party Committee.



Kim Won-chon was born in 1929 in Kapsan, South Hamgyong Province. After the liberation, as the surviving son of a deceased revolutionary he graduated from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and Kim Il-song University.

He began his career in 1959 as an assistant guidance worker in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department and became a guidance worker in the department in 1961 and a responsible guidance worker in 1965. After being named responsible secretary of a county party committee in Tanchon District, South Hamgyong Province in 1970, he worked his way up to deputy director of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department in 1974, and in 1976 he reached the position of responsible secretary in charge of party organization.

He was able to advance in the hierarchy because he came to the attention of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il thanks to his abilities while he was a responsible guidance worker in the Organization and Guidance Department in the mid-1960's. After serving as deputy director of the department in 1979 he was selected in 1983 as responsible secretary of the Yanggang Provincial Party Committee, a post he still holds.

Because his father died while serving as a member of Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla unit in the 1930's, Kim Won-chon was given a formal education. He is known to be a bright individual and a typical and capable party official with the common-man touch.

Of average height, he is heavy-set and has a square face and large eyes.

### Kim Yu-sun

[Text] Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee, chairman of the International Sports Guidance Committee and concurrently chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee.

Born in 1928 in Pyongyang, Kim Yu-sun graduated from Kim Il-song University and began his career as an official in the all-important Organization and Guidance Department of the WPK. He served as guidance worker in the department in 1958 and was promoted to section chief in 1965. He was named deputy director of the newly created WPK Mass Organizations Guidance Department in 1968.

Subsequently he became a senior official as director of the Mass Organizations Guidance Department in 1975. The following year he became chairman of the International Sports Guidance Committee and concurrently chairman of the North Korean Olympics Committee and the man in charge of sports organizations in North Korea. In July of that year he led the North Korean team to the Montreal Olympics and in May 1978 was elected a member of the International Olympics Committee (IOC) at the 80th general meeting of the IOC in Athens.

In February 1978 Kim Yu-sun suggested to the [South] Korean Olympic Association that a single North-South table tennis team be formed, and in December of that year he proposed that a joint team participate in the Moscow Olympics. In January 1980 he called for a meeting at Panmunjom to achieve this. He participated in the 22d Olympics in Moscow as head of the North Korean Olympic team and in October of that year was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress. In March 1984 he proposed the formation of a single North-South team to participate in the 23d Olympics in Los Angeles. Three meetings were subsequently held in April and May of that year, but ended in a rupture.

His selection as the man responsible for sports organization followed his efforts to popularize sports and overcome the stagnation in national defense sports in accordance with Kim Chong-il's call in 1976 for a speed battle, ideological battle and combat spirit battle in the field of sports.

Of medium height, Kim Yu-sun is on the heavy side and his face is round and flat. He has a generous and energetic personality and is known to be politically astute and a man of great drive.

### Kim Yun-hyok

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the State Administration Council.

Born in 1926 in Yangdok County, South Pyongan Province, Kim Yun-hyok is one of the leading administrative technocrats who is well versed in modern science and technology theory. After graduating from Kim Chaek Industrial College he went to the Soviet Union where he studied at Leningrad University, majoring in metallurgy. He began his party career working in the WPK Heavy Industry Department.

He served as party secretary and manager of the Kangson Iron and Steel Mill and the Songjin Iron and Steel Mill in 1960, and around this time he received the Title of Labor Hero for his outstanding abilities in factory expansion and overfulfilling production quotas. After serving as a deputy bureau director in the WPK Heavy Industry Department in 1969, he began to gain prominence after moving up to the position of candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.

Because he was not only strong in mathematics and endowed with a good memory, but also had good organizational skills, he was selected to the post of secretary of the State Administration Council. He was named minister of metallurgical industry in 1979 and elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee in 1980. In 1981 he was relieved of his position as minister of metallurgical industry and for a brief period was appointed as chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee. In August 1986 he was appointed first vice premier of the

State Administration Council, but in December of that year dropped to the rank of vice premier.

A capable party-government official who was formally trained—including study in the Soviet Union—and who possessed skills and knowledge in modern science and technology, he made a number of trips abroad, including a visit to Romania as head of a metallurgical industry delegation and formal and informal visits to the Soviet Union, East Germany, and China.

He has a solidly built frame and greying hair and a round, flat face. He is known to be an excellent speaker and is a well rounded type who has a generous personality and is well regarded by his associates.

### Kim Il

[Text] Formerly vice president. Died in March 1984.

Kim Il was born in Orang County, North Hamgyong Province in 1910, he spent his childhood there and during his youth reportedly was sent together with his family to Jilin, China. He attended the equivalent of a middle school there, but we know nothing definite about this. Judging from the fact that it states in the anti-Japanese partisan memoir "Together with Comrade Kim Il" (published in 1969): "Even though Comrade Kim Il did not receive a formal education..." it is certain that he had virtually no schooling.

He formed an association with Kim Il-song in 1936 in Manchuria and around 1941 was driven out by the Japanese Army punitive expedition against the guerrillas and fled to the Soviet Union. He returned to Pyongyang with the Soviet Army right after the liberation.

Kim Il became the North Pyongan Provincial Party secretary of the North Korea Communist Party in November 1945, and standing member of the Central Committee of the WPK and concurrently member of the Political Committee in 1946; in 1947 he became director of the Cultural Department of the Security Cadre Training Center. While director of the Cultural Department of the Ministry of National Defense in 1949, he took the lead in ideological indoctrination directed toward the 25 June 1950 invasion of South Korea.

Because of defeatist statements and behavior, he was later momentarily purged together with Mu Chong at the 2d Party Plenum of the WPK Central Committee held in December 1950 in Manpo, North Pyongan Province. When Kim Il-song purged Mu Chong and other senior military cadre at that time he included Kim Il as well in order to mollify the Yen-an faction and in consideration of North Korea's relations with China.

In August 1951—six months after being demoted in January 1951 to director of the Political Bureau in the Communications Ministry—Kim Il was selected as chairman of the South Pyongan Party Provincial Committee. In August 1952 he advanced to the influential positions of vice chairman of the Central Committee,

and member of the Standing Committee, the Political Committee and the Military Committee. After serving as vice premier and concurrently minister of labor in March 1954, he was promoted to first vice premier and in October 1966, as standing member of the WPK Political Committee and secretary, he became the third-ranking man in the hierarchy behind Kim Il-song and Choe Yong-kon.

With the reorganization of the cabinet into the State Administration Council in December 1972, he was named premier of the State Administration Council and in April 1976 became first vice president, a ceremonial post without any real power. In December 1979 he took the concurrent post of chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee. In the forefront of relations with South Korea, he sent out a letter in January 1980 calling upon South Korean political parties and social groups to join in a dialogue, and in January 1981 he issued a statement rejecting South Korea's "12 January Proposal to North Korea."

He was tall, spoke with a North Hamgyong dialect, and had an ingrained bluntness of manner. He had thick lips, small eyes, a pointed vertex. His reputation as a man of intrigue was certainly nothing to be scoffed at.

When Kim Il died in March 1984 at the age of 75, it was disclosed that his real name had been Pak Tok-son, but because Kim Il-song considered him a loyal follower, he had him change his name to Kim Il, in emulation of his own name.

### Kim Il-song

[Text] General Secretary of the WPK, President of the DPRK, Supreme Commander, Marshal, member of the WPK Political Committee, member of the Presidium, and chairman of the National Defense Committee of the Central People's Committee.

Born on 15 April 1912 in Nam-ni, Kopyong-myon, Taedong County, South Pyongan Province, Kim Il-song was the eldest son of Kim Hyong-chik—the eldest son of Kim Pu-hyon, a longtime resident of the Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang City—and his wife, Kang Pan-sok. Around 1920 he moved with his parents to Badougou, on the banks of the Yalu River in Manchuria but in 1926, when he was 14 years old, his father died of illness.

Afterwards, he attended the Hwasonguisuk [phonetic] school in Jialun, Manchuria, after which he entered the Chinese Communist Party in 1931. He organized a guerrilla unit and from mid-1932 until the late 1930's was active in the Northeast China Anti-Japanese Allied Army.

In the early 1940's he took refuge in the Soviet Union and served in the Soviet Army until late August 1945 when he arrived in Wonsan by boat. He entered Pyongyang in mid-September. On 14 October 1945—still wearing the insignia of a Soviet Army major—he

appeared at the "Pyongyang City Mass Rally to Welcome General Kim Il-song."

After forming the North Korea People's Committee as the central governing organ of North Korea in February 1946, he became the chairman and in March embarked on a program of land reform, nationalizing land, factories and businesses. When the North Korea Workers Party was founded in August 1946, Kim Il-song became vice chairman (the chairman was Kim Tu-pong), and when the KPA was created in 1948, he was installed the supreme commander. When the regime was founded [in 1948], he was inaugurated as the premier of the cabinet.

He started the Korean War on 25 June 1950 and in 1956, in the aftermath of destalinization in the Soviet Union, Kim Il-song's authority suffered a severe challenge, but he was able to crush it by purges and suppression. And beginning in 1958 he launched the Chollima Movement to step up the exploitation of the workers and strengthen his one-man rule. At the 4th Party Congress in September 1961 he rose to the post of chairman of the Central Committee and in December 1962 he put forth the Four Military Lines and devoted his energies to building up the strength of the military.

Caught in the middle of the Sino-Soviet dispute, he adopted an independent line in August 1966, and following this, seized the occasion of the Fifth plenum of the 4th WPK Central Committee held in 1967 to reenergize his own personality cult. He also glorified his own genealogy, fabricating claims that his entire family—from his great grandfather Kim Ung-u, who was portrayed as being instrumental in the sinking of the [American vessel] General Sherman in 1866, and grandmother Yi Po-ik to his father Kim Hyong-chik and his mother Kang Pan-sok—were revolutionary fighters and patriots. In the area of Mangyongdae he made the thatched house he once lived in as well as the surrounding trees, rocks, and a small empty lot into historical relics and placed statues there.

His 60th birthday on 15 April 1972 was designated as the "Greatest National Holiday" and in September 1973 he named his son Kim Chong-il as the party secretary in charge of organization and propaganda and agitation and designated him as the sole successor, and publicly introduced him at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980.

Kim Il-song received the title of Marshal in February 1953 and in August of that year the Title of Hero of the DPRK, and on the occasion of his 60th birthday in April 1972 the Title of Twice Hero.

Kim Chong-il is the eldest son of Kim Il-song and his first wife, Kim Chong-suk. Kim Kyong-hui is his eldest daughter. He has two sons and one daughter by his second wife, Kim Song-ae: Kim P'yong-il, Kim Kyong-il, and Kim Kyong-suk.

He has a tall, heavyset large frame and unusually large head and large eyes and a rather short neck. He has a

large tumor on the back of his neck, which is judged to be benign and not life threatening. His voice is gravelly and as he has gotten older he frequently coughs when he makes speeches. He does not drink or smoke and generally is known to enjoy hunting, fishing, and reading.

He made his first visit to the Soviet Union in March 1949 after taking power, and up until October 1986 had made nine official visits as well as several unofficial ones. After his first official visit to China in 1953, he had made seven official visits as of May 1987 and several unofficial visits. He has also made several trips to the East European Communist states and some African and Middle Eastern countries.

Kim Il-song suffers from acrophobia and mainly uses trains when he travels.

### Kim Ik-chol

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Military Committee and Commander of the Navy. (Admiral)

Born in 1928 in Pyongyang, Kim Ik-chol is the principal architect of naval modernization. Prior to the liberation in 1945 he worked as a steel worker and took part in a secret underground circle until he was jailed. After the liberation he was a communist party activist then entered the Pyongyang Academy in 1946. He entered the Security Cadre Training Center in 1947 and the following year, after receiving training and education from Soviet Naval officers, he became deputy commander of the Wonsan Base Naval Squadron, then a ship's commander, and at the time of the Korean War served as deputy squadron commander, then squadron commander.

Following the war, after graduating from the Naval College he studied at the Soviet Naval College and received a formal education in modern naval military science theory. Afterwards as a member of the general staff of Navy Headquarters he was involved in naval shipbuilding and underground naval base construction. He became deputy chief of staff of Navy Headquarters in 1968 and was reportedly the commander in charge of the seizure of the Pueblo in the Eastern Sea, which took place at that time.

He gained the trust of Kim Chong-il while accompanying him as personal naval adviser on inspection tours and held the positions of Navy Chief of Staff in 1971, and deputy Navy commander in 1974. He subsequently became Navy Commander in 1978. In that year he became candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected full member of the Central Committee and member of the Military Committee. He was elected as deputy to the 7th Supreme People's Assembly in 1982 and the 8th Supreme People's Assembly in 1986.



He is tall and heavyset has yellowish [sic] hair. He has a long neck and a somewhat receding hairline and sharp nose. He is reputed to have a brusque and energetic disposition.

He has been awarded the Order of Kim Il-song and the Order of National Flag.

In July 1988 Kim Ik-chol visited the Soviet port of Vladivostok commanding a four-vessel flotilla and has visited the Soviet Union and China with official and unofficial military delegations on other occasions.

### Kim Chong-il

[Text] Member of the Presidium of the WPK Politburo, member of the Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat, and member of the Military Committee.

He was born on 16 February 1942 in the mountain village of Okeyaska [phonetic] in the Soviet Far East, the son of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-suk. He had a younger brother—his Russian name was Yula—who was born in 1943 in the Soviet Union, but died in a drowning accident in the lily pond at Kim Il-song's official residence. Kim Chong-il is now Kim Il-song's only remaining son by his first wife, and has been designated as his sole successor.

He lived in the Soviet Union until the age of 4, and in October 1945 entered Unggi harbor in North Hamgyong Province aboard a Soviet warship. In December of that year he set foot in Pyongyang for the first time. This notwithstanding, North Korea claims that Kim Chong-il was born in a log cabin on Mt. Paektu. The regime has built a log cabin there—which they call the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp—and North Korean citizens are made to make pilgrimages there.

After attending the Namsan Kindergarten, he entered the Namsan People's [elementary] School in September 1949. Shortly after this, his real mother died and his personality turned unruly. In 1960 he entered the faculty of politics and economics at Kim Il-song University and graduated in 1964. In early 1966 he worked under WPK Organization and Guidance Department Director Kim Yong-chu [his uncle] and also served in the Escort General Bureau. In the latter half of the 1960's he worked as a cadre in the party's Propaganda and Agitation Department and the Culture and Arts Department, and played a major role in focusing all cultural and artistic activities on the Kim Il-song personality cult and the idolization of his family.

It was, however, after September 1973 that Kim Chong-il began to become known to the world. That year, at the secret 7th plenum of the Fifth Central Committee held 3-17 September the then-Vice President Choe Yong-kon and Premier Kim Il came to an agreement and proposed that Kim Il-song name his son Kim Chong-il as his successor. The plenum resolved to that effect and elected

Kim Chong-il as the WPK secretary in charge of organization and guidance and propaganda and agitation.

After October 1973, party committee meetings at each echelon were followed by two-hour recorded lectures about Kim Chong-il. The entire membership would stand up and sing songs praising him and calling him the "respected leader Comrade Kim Chong-il." Also at the end of that year, the entire party membership was made to study—in addition to the teachings of Kim Il-song—"Notes on the Teachings of Kim Chong-il." And a song praising Kim Chong-il—"We will be Loyal Generation After Generation"—was written and popularized.

In April 1974 they started to officially call Kim Chong-il "the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and "the dear Central Committee Secretary Comrade Kim Chong-il." Report meetings were held throughout the country to congratulate the successor Kim Chong-il and praise the accomplishments of Kim Chong-suk [his mother]. Beginning in May 1975, Chongnyon [the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] also transmitted to training officers at each level the party guidelines on the Kim Chong-il succession. On 16 February that year, Kim Chong-il's birthday events were carried out on a nationwide scale and at the time of the election of local deputies (Kangso County, South Pyongan Province) on 27 February, Kim Chong-il appeared immediately following Kim Il-song, suggesting that Kim Chong-il was Kim Il-song's successor. From that time, pictures of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il were hung side by side at major party buildings and at factories and enterprises. And at the 30th anniversary of the founding of the party that year, a song titled "Glory to the Dear Leader Kim Chong-il" was written and disseminated.

It is particularly noteworthy that the "Cadre Study Lectures" published as training materials for party cadres in October 1975 mention that "The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is the sole successor of the leader." From about the end of 1975 Kim Chong-il began to be called "the sole leader" and on 16 February 1976, his 34th birthday, his birthday was designated as a formal holiday. It was proclaimed an official holiday by decision of the State Administration Council in February 1982.

Kim Chong-il, who had already carried out on-site guidance (inspection tours) from the mid-1960's, formally surfaced at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 as a member of the executive, a member of the Party Resolutions Drafting Committee, a member of the Central Committee, the Politburo, the Presidium, secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and member of the Military Committee, thus standing at the pinnacle of the power hierarchy.

Kim Chong-il is known to have married Hong Il-chon in a love marriage in 1966. He had a daughter by her, but divorced her in 1969. In early 1973 he married a woman named Kim Hye-suk.

Unlike Kim Il-song, he is rather short and looks pudgy. His hair is somewhat curly and he wears glasses. He is known to be hot-tempered, radical, and self-righteous. He has big ideas and appears arrogant, even putting his hands in his pockets in front of Kim Il-song.

### Kim Chung-nin

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat.

Kim Chung-nin was born in 1924 in Pyoktong County in North Pyongan Province. After graduating from Normal School in the countryside, he passed the examination for elementary school teacher by self-study and was employed as a teacher before 1945. After the liberation he began his party career as a communist party activist and in 1948 made his debut as a department director of the WPK North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee. In March 1954 he became a deputy director of a department under the WPK Central Committee, and as a member of the standing committee of the North Korean Red Cross central committee in 1959 was deeply involved in the repatriation to North Korea of Korean residents in Japan. He was elected in May 1961 as a member of the central committee of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee, and at the 4th Party Congress in September he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. In October 1962 he was appointed director of the WPK Cultural Department and in March 1966 director of the party Fisheries Department.

Unable to make any particular progress in the party from the 1950's until the mid 1960's, Kim Chung-nin finally entered the top ranks of the power elite when he was appointed party secretary in charge of anti-South Korean operations in 1969, succeeding Ho Pong-hak. At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was a member of the WPK Central Committee, a member of the Political Committee, and the secretary in charge of anti-South Korean operations. With the launching of the Kim Chong-il political structure in 1974 he was promoted to member of the Standing Committee of the Political Committee and concentrated on consolidating the Kim Chong-il structure, but in 1975 he was demoted to candidate member of the Political Committee and director of the South Korea Research Institute.

He later dropped from sight for a while, assuming responsibility for the North's invasion tunnels incident during the North-South dialogue and for repeated failures in anti-South Korean operations. He succeeded in resurfacing as a Political Committee member in 1978, however, subsequently moving up to full member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in 1980. Later, in February 1984, he was dismissed as secretary in charge of South Korean operations and downgraded to candidate member of the Politburo, but was reappointed as Central Committee secretary the following year. Just one year later, in 1986, however, he once again was dismissed from the secretary

post. Stripped even of his status as candidate member of the WPK Politburo in October 1986, he was named president of the official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) and concurrently chairman of the Information Committee. In November 1988 he was again appointed as secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat at the 14th plenum of the Sixth Central Committee.

Kim Chung-nin gained Kim Il-song's trust because of his brilliant mind as well as extraordinary writing skills and his gift for foreign languages such as English and Japanese. But it was particularly because in the 1960's he published through the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) an adulatory work titled "Biography of Kim Il-song," and had it disseminated in great numbers overseas.

This man who personally organized and directed various provocations against South Korea as party secretary in charge of anti-South Korean operations from the late 1960's until the mid- 1970's, is short of stature and has high cheekbones and large eyes and ears. He is known to be impatient and so crafty so that he often gets outwitted by his own cleverness.

### Kim Chang-chu

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the State Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

He was born in 1923 in Mangyongdae, Pyongyang. Prior to the liberation he dropped out of Pyongyang Sungsil School and [after the liberation] entered Kim Il-song University. In 1950, the year the Korean War broke out, he went to the Soviet Union where he studied at Moscow University, returning to North Korea in 1955.

He began his party career in 1955 as a guidance worker in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department, was promoted to responsible guidance worker and section chief in 1959 and was appointed to the post of deputy director of the WPK Agriculture Department in 1962. After serving as vice chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial Party People's Committee in 1965, he held the position of secretary of the cabinet Secretariat in 1968 and was posted to Iraq in 1974 as the North Korean ambassador. After a stint as responsible secretary for the Kusong Municipal Party Committee in North Pyongan Province in 1978, he moved up to party secretary of the Agriculture Committee, and was elected a member of the Central Committee of the WPK in 1980. At the 1st session of the 7th Supreme People's Assembly in April 1982 he was chosen as vice premier of the State Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

His influential position stems from his close connections with Kim Il-song rather than from having any administrative ability or being an agricultural specialist with



scientific or technical expertise. His father, Kim Hyong-nok, was Kim Il-song's uncle, and his younger brother, Kim Pong-chu, is chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

He is a tall, thin man with a healthy constitution. He is known to have an outgoing and impatient disposition.

#### **Kim Chol-man**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee.

He was born in the late 1910's and is known to have engaged in various guerrilla activities in Manchuria until 1945. His original home was South Korea, but around the time of the 1 March 1919 Independence Movement his entire family fled from the oppression of the Japanese to Manchuria, where they made a living by farming.

In 1946, the year following the liberation, he entered North Korea from Manchuria and began a military career as operations officer in the headquarters of the North Korean Army, which was founded seven months before the establishment of the regime. During the Korean War he was active as chief of staff for operations in the Ministry of National Defense. He was a division commander (major general) in 1958 and in 1964 was promoted to commander of the Second Corps (lieutenant general).

Kim Chol-man participated substantively in the strengthening of the Four Military Lines adopted at the Fifth plenum of the 4th Central Committee in December 1962. He is regarded as an outstanding military strategist, having commanded the operations sector from the time of the founding of the Army. He was promoted to colonel general in December 1967 and the following year was appointed as a deputy chief of the Army general staff on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Army. He was awarded the Title of Hero [of the Republic] from Kim Il-song in 1968 and was appointed first deputy chief of staff in 1970. At the Fifth Party Congress in November of that year he was elected for the first time as a full member of the WPK Central Committee.

He visited China in 1970 as a member of a military delegation and in 1971 as a member of a party and government delegation, and in 1977 he visited the Soviet Union. At the end of 1979 he participated in the launching of a 20,000-ton freighter at Nampo Port. And at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 Kim Chol-man was a member of the committee that drafted the Party Congress resolutions, a member of the Central Committee, a deputy member of the Politburo, and a member of the Military Committee, but he has since dropped out of sight.

#### **Kim Hwan**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the State Administration Council, and concurrently minister of chemical industry.

Born in 1929 in Huchang County, North Pyongan Province, Kim Hwan was raised by his grandparents. After the liberation he attended the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and received an education in the Chemical Industry Department of Kim Il-song University. From 1953 he received a formal education in the chemical sector at the graduate school of Karl Marx Industrial College in Leipzig, East Germany.

In 1962 he was section chief of the WPK's Heavy Industry Department, and following that, in 1967, he was appointed vice minister of chemical industry and in 1970 was promoted to candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. In 1972 he became a full member of the Central Committee and in December of that year was selected as minister of chemical industry of the State Administration Council. After visiting Bulgaria as head of a chemical industry delegation in 1964 he was promoted to director of a department under the Central Committee.

With the appearance of Kim Chong-il on the political stage in the mid-1970's, Kim Hwan began to develop into an influential figure. He moved into the top ranks of power-holders when he was named full member of the WPK Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee in 1978. When he was appointed vice premier of the Administration Council in 1983 he was relieved of his position as party secretary, but was reappointed as party secretary in February 1986. Within 10 months, however, he was dismissed and became chairman of the Chemical and Light Industry Committee of the State Administration Council, in charge of the chemical industry sector.

After being reappointed as vice premier in 1987, he became minister of chemical and light industry after the cabinet reorganization in June 1988. As a technician and specialist in the field of weapons chemistry, who has studied in East Germany, he is regarded as the number-one man in the field.

Kim Hwan was raised by his grandparents because his father had died at an early age. Because his father, Kim Hyok, had served under Kim Il-song and had died saving Kim Il-song's life, even today he is praised as an exemplary hero. In addition to this special relationship with Kim Il-song, he also has shown unusual loyalty to Kim Chong-il by playing a leading role in the Kim Chong-il idolization campaign by setting up Kim Chong-il Thought Study Rooms in schools and educational institutions while he was director of the WPK's Department of Schools and Education.

He is of average height, solidly built, and has a handsome face. He is known to be sincere and scholarly and to have political leadership ability and vision.

#### **Pak Nam-ki**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, secretary of the WPK Central Committee Secretariat, and

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member of the Budget Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee.

Pak Nam-ki, a statistical expert who majored in statistics, was born in Haeju, Hwanghae Province in 1928 to a college instructor's family. After completing studies at Kim Chaek Engineering College, he went to the Soviet Union where he studied at Leningrad Engineering College.

He started off his career in 1958 as a guidance worker in the WPK Commercial and Financial Planning Department and in 1963 he was deputy director of the Central Statistical Bureau of the State Planning Commission. In 1969 he was appointed deputy director of the party's Commercial and Financial Planning Department.

He served in 1972 as vice minister of metallurgical industry and was chosen vice chairman of the State Planning Commission in 1976. He also served as director of the party's Second Economic Department in 1983. At the 10th plenum of the Sixth Central Committee held in December of the following year he was selected as a party secretary, a position in which he served for two years before being appointed in December 1986 as chairman of the State Planning Commission of the State Administration Council. However, he was dismissed from that position a year later, in October 1987. He was subsequently reappointed as a secretary of the WPK Secretariat in November 1988.

As a party-administrative official in statistics—an expert and authority second only to Yun Ki-pok—Pak Nam-ki is reputed to have a sharp mind and extensive knowledge of general economics.

He has a handsome face, is of average height, and has a large nose.

### **Pak Song-chol**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and vice president of the DPRK.

Pak was born in 1913 in Kilchu, North Hamgyong Province. He attended elementary school there, then dropped out and moved with his parents to Manchuria.

He went to Japan and attended college at night, and then joined the Japan Communist Party and quit school. He returned to Manchuria in 1935 and again participated in the anti-Japanese movement. The people who were active with him during that period were his former classmates in middle school in Manchuria, including Kim Il and Yim Chun-chu. In 1936 he joined the Kim Il-song anti-Japanese guerrilla unit in Eastern Manchuria, where Kim was active. After the liberation he entered North Korea together with Kim Il-song and had a hand in the creation of the Army, after which he served as commander of the Fifth Division during the Korean War.

After the war, he was named ambassador to Bulgaria in August 1954 and had his first taste of diplomatic life. In just 2 years his abilities were acknowledged and he shot up to the post of director of the WPK Central Committee's International Bureau in August 1956. In October of that year he became vice minister of foreign affairs, and in October 1959 he rose to minister of foreign affairs, becoming the number-one man in substantive diplomatic affairs.

Until he was named foreign minister, he was highly regarded not only because of his energetic activities in college when he was studying in Japan and his brilliant exploits as a member of the Communist Party afterwards, but also for having greatly contributed to [getting] postwar reconstruction aid for North Korea from the communist bloc as vice minister of foreign affairs and director of the party International Department.

From that time forward he was acknowledged as the doyen of diplomatic affairs and began to travel the fast track to success. In September 1961 he became a full member of the WPK Central Committee and in October 1962 he was retained as foreign minister, and in June 1964 he was elected as member of the Political Committee of the party Central Committee.

In July 1961 he accompanied Kim Il-song to the Soviet Union and China and had a hand in concluding military alliance treaties with those countries. He also travelled with Kim Il-song on his visit to Indonesia in April 1965. For his contributions in establishing diplomatic relations with Middle Eastern and African countries—with which North Korea had previously had no diplomatic ties—he became in October 1966 vice premier and concurrently foreign minister.

He worked hard to improve the estranged relations with China and visited China as head of a party and government delegation in June 1970. Immediately on his return he was selected as second vice premier of the cabinet and became the number-3 man, following Kim Il-song and Kim Il. At the time of the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he became a member of the Political Committee, and when the cabinet was reorganized into the State Administration Council in December 1972, he became a member of the Central People's Committee, vice premier, and concurrently chairman of the People's Service Committee.

He began to become prominent after playing one of the leading roles in the North-South talks in the 1970's.

Beginning on May 29, 1972 he made an unofficial 5-day visit to Seoul, and participated in the creation of the 4 July Joint Statement, which was the cornerstone of the North-South dialogue. While the talks were being conducted, he also went to Seoul as the acting joint chairman of the North-South Coordinating Committee from the North side, replacing Kim Yong-chu.

In April 1976 he was selected as premier of the Administration Council and after that, in December 1977, was appointed vice president and is now dealing with diplomatic relations.

He is taller than average and heavyset and his face is relatively flat with good features, and gentle without a trace of hostility. He is known to have a gentle temperament, always smiles, has good interpersonal skills, and does not stand on ceremony.

### **Pak Su-tong**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Agricultural Workers Union.

Pak Su-tong was born in 1923 in Huchang County, North Pyongan Province. Before the liberation he moved with his parents to the Jiandao area of Manchuria and dropped out of the Dasheng Middle School in Lunging.

After the liberation he entered the first class of Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy—the school for the surviving children of deceased revolutionaries—and graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow University.

He began his party career in 1955 as a guidance worker in the WPK's Organization and Guidance Department, and in 1959 became a responsible guidance functionary. He was chosen as the party responsible secretary at Kim Il-song University in 1961, when Kim Chong-il was a student there. He was named deputy director of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department in 1966 and looked after Kim Chong-il [who worked in the department at that time], and in 1968 served as responsible secretary of the Yanggang Provincial Party Committee.

While he was responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee in 1970, he was elected as a full member of the party Central Committee and candidate member of the Political Committee for the first time at the Fifth Party Congress in November of that year. In 1972 he was deeply involved in intra-party organizational work as 1st deputy director of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department.

Pak Su-tong was selected in 1980 to be secretary of the WPK Central Committee Secretariat and was active in that post, but in 1982 he was cut from his position as candidate member of the Political Committee and transferred to the post of chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee. Then in 1984 he was appointed to the post of chairman of the Agricultural Workers Union, succeeding Pyon Ch'ang-pok.

Together with Kim Chong-il he was deeply involved in the establishment of the unitary guidance system and the Kim Chong-il personality cult. Although he is one of the most trusted leaders of the regime, he reportedly suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes and is not in good

health, and for this reason he was given the sinecure of chairman of the Agricultural Workers Union, where he is currently active.

He is six-feet tall, heavyset, and has a flat, long face with small eyes.

He is known to be taciturn, is not given to expressing his likes or dislikes, and is somewhat brusque, but has his unpretentious side as well.

### **Pak Sung-il**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and responsible secretary of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee.

A native of Tokchon County, South Pyongan Province, he was born in 1922. Prior to the liberation he graduated from elementary school and worked as a laborer in an ironworks.

After the liberation he was involved as a Communist Party activist, then in 1947 he received training in the WPK Central Party School, after which he began his career as a party official as the chief of the Organization Department of Nampo Municipal Party Committee in South Pyongan Province.

He participated in the Korean War and in 1954 was active in the party Organization and Guidance Department as the responsible guidance worker in charge of provinces, then in 1966 he went to the Soviet Union, where he studied until 1960 at the Soviet Senior Party School. After his overseas study he served as vice chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee, but because he tended to carry out his work without due regard to the situation, he was relegated to the position of chairman of the Chung District Party Committee in Pyongyang City from 1965 until 1970.

In 1971 he was demoted to 1st vice chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee and worked as an administrative official. After this, he served a stint in the diplomatic service as ambassador to Sudan from 1974 until September 1978. Later he served as deputy director of the Central Committee's Administrative Department and in 1981 was named to the position of chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee.

The following year (1982) he was chosen as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee, advancing in 1985 to full membership. After spending three years as chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, he was appointed in 1984 as chairman of the People's Service Committee of the State Administration Council, then in 1986 was selected to be responsible secretary of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee, a position he still holds.

A member of the basic class from a working class background, he is strong in drive and executive ability.



but it is reported that at times he has precipitated unfavorable side-effects by promoting reckless projects.

He is chubby and of average height and has a longish face with pronounced cheek bones.

He has a stubborn and straight-forward temperament.

### **Pak Yong-sun**

[Text] Formerly director of the Central Revolutionary Museum. Died in 1987.

Pak Yong-sun was born in 1906 in Kyongwon, North Hamgyong Province. His ancestral home was Wando, South Cholla Province, but the family moved during his grandfather's period.

Around 1930 he participated in the anti-Japanese resistance war in the North China area under the command of Choe Yong-kon, then in 1934 he joined Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrillas.

He started out as a department director under the WPK North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in August 1948, and became director of the Communications Department of the WPK in October 1956. He was elected full member of the Central Committee at the 4th Party Congress in September 1961.

After becoming minister of communications in October 1962, he visited China in September 1964, and Indonesia and China in August 1965 as head of government delegations. In 1967 he became vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and after being relieved of his position as communications minister in June 1971, he was appointed director of the Administrative Department of the WPK Central Committee.

After becoming director of the Central Revolutionary Museum in 1973, he was awarded the Title of Hero [of the DPRK] and the Order of National Flag First Class in October 1975. He died of illness in August 1987 at the age of 81.

He was accorded treatment on the basis of his being an old-guard partisan, rather than on the basis of erudition.

### **Pak Chung-kuk**

[Text] Candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and ambassador to Cuba and Mexico. (Colonel General)

Pak Chung-kuk was born in 1923 in Huchang, North Pyongan Province.

After the liberation he studied in the Soviet Union at the Moscow International Relations University, majoring in international relations. He was a section chief in the International Department of the WPK in 1955 and served as a counselor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1957. He gradually began to gain prominence in

January 1963 when he was appointed director of the First Bureau of the Foreign Ministry.

Of particular note, as a major general he was named North Korean senior member of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) in September 1964 and in the 5 years until he departed the position in February 1969 he left behind many anecdotes in the MAC.

One anecdote worthy of mention is related to the seizure of the U.S. intelligence vessel Pueblo on 23 January 1968. Because he made a mistake in drafting the documents for the repatriation [of the crew] he was dismissed from his position as North Korean senior member of the MAC.

On top of that, while he was North Korean senior member of the MAC, a series of heinous incidents occurred—including the 21 January [1968] guerrilla raid on the Blue House and the armed guerrilla intrusions at Samchok and Ulsan. Trying to rationalize these incidents, Pak Chung-kuk became the object of extreme contempt. However, in March 1971 he visited Guinea as head of a military delegation and in July of that year was chosen deputy chief of the General Staff.

In December 1972 he was elected deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly and in March of the following year was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. Following the restructuring of the government, he was reappointed as deputy chief staff of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces (MPAF). Of particular note, in August 1974, as a general grade officer, he was appointed concurrently ambassador to Romania and Malta and served as a diplomat until August 1977.

After being recalled from his diplomatic post, he visited Tanzania and Rwanda as head of a military delegation in September and October 1977 and in May of the following year was singled out to be a vice minister of people's armed forces, a post he has held for some 10 years.

At the Sixth Party Congress in 1980 he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in September 1987 once again went into diplomatic service as the ambassador to Cuba and Mexico.

The fact that he is an expert in foreign relations yet performs his ambassadorial duties as a general grade officer in the military—and has twice held the post of ambassador to Cuba—bespeaks his position as one of the key personalities in the Kim Chong-il regime.

He is tall and somewhat heavysset and has pronounced cheekbones. He is reputed to be clearheaded and a man of quick discernment but with a taciturn disposition.

### **Pang Hak-se**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and president of the Central Court.

Born in Russia in 1912, he lived there until the liberation in 1945.

The same age as Kim Il-song, Pang Hak-se graduated from a Soviet intelligence school in the 1930's and worked as an intelligence officer in the Soviet Army. He returned to North Korea in August 1945 with Kim Il-song.

Thanks to the influence of the Soviet military and his ties with Kim Il-song from the time of his arrival in North Korea, Pang was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee at the 2d Party Congress in March 1948 and in August of that year became a deputy to the 1st Supreme People's Assembly. In 1949, the year after the establishment of the North Korean regime, he was appointed director of the Political Security Bureau of the Interior Ministry and contributed to the consolidation of the Kim Il-song regime.

Following this, in March 1951 he was named first minister of public security in the Ministry of Public Security, which had been split off from the Interior Ministry. In September 1952 the Ministry of Public Security was abolished and amalgamated into the Interior Ministry. He was selected as minister of the interior in October of that year. Subsequently, he retained the post of interior minister for a full 8 years, until October 1960.

Because he had long served as a Soviet military intelligence specialist, he used his extraordinary talents in rooting out Kim Il-song's political enemies in the purges of the South Korean Workers Party faction, the Soviet faction, and the Yanan faction. As a result he gained the absolute trust of Kim Il-song.

At the 3d Party Congress in April 1956, he was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee and again chosen as a deputy to the 2d Supreme People's Assembly in August 1957.

Pang was named vice president of the Supreme Court in November 1960 and held the post for 6 years. In November 1966 he was selected to be director of the Intelligence Department of the Liaison Bureau of the WPK and even was active in anti-South Korean operations. At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970, he was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee, and with the wholesale reorganization of the governing structure resulting from the adoption of the new constitution in December 1972, he was elected as president of the Central Court (Supreme Court), a position he still holds.

He is somewhat tall, heavy-set, and has round eyes and a round, flat face. He is known to have a sharp and cold personality and even looks like an intelligence expert.

#### **Paek Pom-su**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and member of the Central People's Committee.

He was born in Kyongsong, North Hamgyong Province in 1928 and is one of the surviving children of deceased anti-Japanese revolutionaries who were well provided for by Kim Il-song.

He went to Mangyongdae Academy and graduated from Kim Il-song University, after which he embarked on his party career as a guidance worker in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department, becoming a responsible guidance officer in 1959, and advancing to the position of deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department in 1965.

He was subsequently named chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions in 1967 and the following year was selected as responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee.

In July 1970, after being relieved of his position as responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee, he served as political officer in the 2nd Army Headquarters with the rank of lieutenant general. In November of that year, at the Fifth Party Congress, he was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.

He was reappointed responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee in 1975 and held the position for 13 years. He was removed from the post in February 1988, but was elected as a full member of the Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, and became a member of the Central People's Committee at the 1st session of the 8th Supreme People's Assembly in December 1986.

His father is known to have died while serving as a partisan under Kim Il-song in the latter half of the 1930's. Paek is one of the top-level party officials and is extraordinarily loyal to Kim Il-song.

Of average height and physique, he has a somewhat receding hairline and roundish face. He is said to have a hot temper, straightforward personality and is somewhat impatient.

#### **Paek In-chun**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Korean General Federation of Literature and the Arts.

He was born in 1919 in Unsan, North Pyongan Province.

Before the liberation, Paek In-chun completed Pyongyang Senior Common School and studied for a while at Yonhui Specialized School. He left in his second year and went to Japan to study, but while there was drafted into the Japanese Army.

His first work was "Song of the People," which was published in 1948. In 1949 he went to the Soviet Union to study at Moscow University.



In 1950 he published "Mt. Chiri District," "A Story of the New Age," and in the 1960's he wrote anti-American poetry collections such as "Naked America" (1961) and "America Condemned"; and a scenario titled "On the Road of Growth" (parts 1 and 2, 1965). In addition he also has published lyric poems such as "A Story Flowing on the Taedong River" (1962), "Endless, My Hopes" (1964), and "Large Hands" (1960).

He was awarded the Title of People's Artist in 1966 and received the Order of Kim Il-song in September 1974.

He has long held the post of director of the Paektusan Creation Troupe—a key post in the art and literary world—which is responsible for and creates artistic works promoting the Kim Il-song personality cult. He is in the forefront of the creation of superior artistic works.

Whenever there has been controversy and differences of opinion within the party, he has always taken the side of Kim Il-song and taken the lead in purging opposition factions. Typical examples are when he enthusiastically threw himself into the condemnation of the poetry collection "Sounds," which occurred in Wonsan in 1946, and when he was took the lead in the establishment in the 1960's of the creative group specializing in idolizing Kim Il-song.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, Paek took part in the discussions as a party representative of the Ministry of Culture and Arts. He was appointed chairman of the Korean General Federation of Literature and the Arts in March 1986 and was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee at the 12th plenum of the WPK in December of that year.

He has written more movie theme-song lyrics than any other North Korean poet: Of the 128 songs carried in the "Movie Theme Song Collection," some 25 songs—about 20 percent—are his.

Representative works include the theme song "Waiting for the Spring of Liberation", which was the theme of North Korea's first movie, "My Native Home," and the theme "Kumgangsan, Let Us Sing," from the typical 1960's movie "Kumgangsan Maiden." 13494

### **Paek Hak-nim**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Central Military Committee, and minister of public security. (General)

Born in Pungsan, North Hamgyong Province in 1921, when small he moved with his parents to the Jiandao area of Manchuria, where he grew up. Before the liberation he joined the Kim Il-song anti-Japanese guerrilla unit and from age 16 took up arms and served Kim Il-song as one of his bodyguards. In the first half of the 1940's he served as a member of a special reconnaissance unit in the Soviet Army.

Paek entered North Korea in August 1945 and became a company commander of Kim Il-song's escort unit.

During the Korean War, he saw combat as a regimental commander. He rose to division commander in 1954, and was promoted to corps commander in 1958. He also served as the representative of the communist side at the Military Armistice Commission in 1960. At the 4th Party Congress in September 1961, he was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and became head of the Kim Il-song Escort Office and concurrently his senior aide (major general) and followed Kim Il-song like his shadow.

He was appointed director of the Political Security Bureau of the Defense Ministry in 1962 (rank of lieutenant general) and was elected as deputy to the 4th Supreme People's Assembly in November 1967. He gained the trust of Kim Il-song and his career blossomed: In 1968 he was promoted to commander of the Security and Escort Office and at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee.

In March 1971 Paek was vice minister of public security, then served in the same post after the cabinet reorganization. Afterwards he served as commander of the People's Security Forces, and moved up to the post of vice minister of people's armed forces of the State Administration Council in 1979.

In 1980 he visited China as head of a military delegation and in October of that year was elected as a member of the Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Military Committee, moving up as a key figure of the Kim Chong-il hereditary succession setup.

On the occasion of Kim Il-song's 73d birthday in April 1985 Paek was promoted to general and in October of that year he was named minister of public security. In that position he is responsible for conducting investigations of the civilian populace, and is in the forefront of consolidating the Kim Chong-il regime.

He is a faithful servant who started out at a very young age as one of Kim Il-song's bodyguards and has devoted his entire life to protecting Kim Il-song. Since the latter part of the 1960's he has been involved in grooming Kim Chong-il as the future successor.

Paek Hak-nim is a typical military aide-type and has the reputation of being an intrepid military commander. He is short, stocky, and has a round, flat face.

### **So Kwan-hui**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee.

He was born in 1926 in Pyongyang, but not much is known about his childhood.

When the Korean War broke out in 1950, So Kwan-hui went to study in the Soviet Union at Moscow University. He launched his career as director of the Agricultural Department of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee of the WPK in 1954. He is regarded as the

number-one authority in the field of rural management, having devoted 30 years exclusively to the field of agriculture. It was he who conceived Kim Il-song's "chuche agricultural method."

In August 1960 he was named director of the Agricultural Management Bureau of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. In July 1963 he became chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Rural Economy Committee, and in September of that year was appointed chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. Subsequently, in 1967, he was reappointed chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee and in November of that year was elected as a deputy to the 4th Supreme People's Assembly.

He was elected as a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972 and in June of the following year was chosen for the position of chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the State Administration Council. He was appointed chairman of the Agriculture Committee because he was highly esteemed for his pioneering role in creating Kim Il-song's "chuche agriculture" through experimental cultivation during his 10-year tenure as chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Rural Economy Committee.

In 1976 So Kwan-hui was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee and in 1978 was relieved of his position as chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the State Administration Council.

He was once again appointed vice premier of the State Administration Council in 1980 and was given the concurrent position of chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the State Administration Council in 1981.

A man well versed in agricultural science and technology, he has a good mind and has won the trust of Kim Il-song. He is tall and thin and dark complected with a somewhat long face. He is a meticulous man with a quiet temperament and was the recipient of awards such as the Order of Kim Il-song, the Order of National Flag, and the Order of Labor for his efforts in the field of agriculture.

### So Yun-sok

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and responsible secretary of South Pyongan Province.

So Yun-sok was born in 1929 in Beijiandao. After the liberation graduated from the Mangyongdae Academy—the school for the surviving children of deceased revolutionaries—and graduated from Kim Il-song University. He launched his party career as a guidance officer in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department in 1953, became a responsible guidance officer in that department in 1959, and was promoted to deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department in 1964.

In the 1950's and 1960's he was in the forefront of purging anti-Kim Il-song elements and consolidating the one-man dictatorship system.

Consequently he became a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 and was selected as responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee. In 1972 he was elected as a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

It is particularly noteworthy that as first deputy director of the party Organization and Guidance Department he worked under Kim Chong-il and contributed greatly to the consolidation of the Kim Chong-il leadership structure.

For example, in the mid 1970's he took the lead in purging those who either were opposed to or skeptical toward the Kim Chong-il unitary guidance system. He was directly involved in removing many party and administrative officials such as Political Committee Member and Secretary Kim Tong-kyu, Political Committee Member and Army General Political Bureau Director Yi Yong-mu, and Candidate Political Committee Member and Secretary Yu Chang-sik.

Named as the responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee in 1978, So Yun-sok served a full 8 years in that post as the vanguard in the consolidation of the Kim Chong-il political structure before moving to the post of responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee in November 1986.

He was elected member of the WPK Central Committee and candidate member of the Politburo at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980. At the Sixth party plenum of August 1982, he was elected full member of the Politburo, becoming one of the most influential of the second generation of partisans.

He is tall and on the heavy side, with a longish face and a large skull. He is reputed to be a magnanimous person with abundant self-confidence and lots of drive, and is especially fond of sports.

### So Chol

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and chairman of the WPK Auditing Committee.

He was born in Eastern Manchuria on 16 April 1907, but nothing can be found in the records concerning his activities and educational background prior to 1930. According to various North Korean accounts, his first appearance was in 1933 when he joined the Communist movement, and from that time was active as an anti-Japanese partisan in the Manchurian region.

It is not known to what unit he belonged to or what position he held, but in view of the fact that he is identified as one of the Kapsan faction led by Kim

Il-song, it is assumed that he was active in the guerrilla unit together with Kim Il-song in the 1930's.

However, inasmuch as it is recorded that he was active in the south Manchurian area of Menggang [phonetic] and Hwadian in 1939, it is clear that he did not flee to the Soviet Union with Kim Il-song, but remained in hiding in Manchuria until the liberation.

After the liberation he entered North Korea and was active with Kim Il-song as one of the leaders of the Kapsan faction. In September 1947 he was the military deputy director of the Kangdong Political Academy, which was set up as a training center for anti-South Korean operations and guerrilla personnel. He was the expert in anti-South Korean operations who manipulated from behind the scenes the Yosu Rebellion of October 1948 and the Taegu 6th Regiment Rebellion. In particular, it was revealed that before the North Korean invasion of the South on 25 June 1950, he had once personally infiltrated into the area of Odaesan, Kangwon Province.

After the Korean War ended, he served as charge d'affaires ad interim to China, then in February 1955 was transferred to Vietnam as North Korean ambassador. He was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the 3d Party Congress in April 1956.

Subsequently, after being named to the post of director (a lieutenant general slot) of the army's General Political Bureau in July 1958, his abilities were recognized and he became one of the key members of the power structure, moving up to 17th place in the Central Committee hierarchy of the WPK at the 4th Party Congress in September 1961.

With this background, in August 1962 he became director of the WPK Liaison Department, the office responsible for anti-South Korean operations, thereby emerging as one of the real power-holders in this field second only to Yi Hyo-sun, the director of the South Korean General Operations Bureau at that time. At this time anti-South Korean operations were more active than ever before and So Chol was the man who conducted diverse activities against the South, espousing the South Korean violent revolution line.

In 1966 he was moved to the post of chairman of the Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, which acted as a civilian-level "window" for external affairs. In that position he contributed greatly to organizing Kim Il-song Study Groups and friendship groups in the developing countries of the Middle East and Africa, not to mention the socialist states.

He became chairman of the Diplomacy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly in December of 1967 and in December of 1969 was chosen full member of the WPK Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee.

He became vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the SPA in August 1970 and in November of that year, at the Fifth Party Congress, he [again] was named full member of the Political Committee. At the congress he strongly advocated communization of the Korean peninsula by means of violent revolution, and to this end he stressed that anti-South Korean operations should be stepped up.

In June 1973 he was promoted to member of the Political Committee, member of the Central People's Committee, and chairman of the WPK Central Committee Auditing Committee—the body responsible for uprooting ideological evils and irregularities of WPK members. Subsequently he served as director of the Army's General Political Bureau (with the rank of general) in October 1977, and was reappointed member of the Central Committee, full member of the Political Committee, and chairman of the party Auditing Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in 1980.

He was relieved of his position as member of the Central People's Committee in December 1986 and on the occasion of his 80th birthday in April 1987 he was awarded the Order of National Flag First Class.

Short of stature and heavyset, he looks stocky and has large ears.

One of the veteran revolutionaries who enjoy the trust of Kim Il-song, he is taciturn, not too sharp, and puts stress on principle.

### Son Song-pil

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, president of People's Economic University, chairman of the Red Cross Society, and vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee.

Son was born in Anju, South Pyongan Province in 1921. During the Japanese annexation period he received a middle school education and after the liberation graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow University.

He began his career as an instructor at the WPK Central Party School in 1954 and served as professor at the Political Academy (the forerunner of the People's Economic University), and dean of curriculum of the Marx-Leninism Academy in 1961. In 1964 he became academic dean of the WPK Central Party School and by 1969 he had worked his way up to dean of the People's Economic University.

He became a member of the cabinet in July 1970 as minister of higher education. At the Fifth Party Congress in November of that year, he was promoted to candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. He assumed the post of chairman of the Red Cross Society in 1971, a position he has retained until the present. In December of the next year (1972) he was elected deputy to the Fifth



Supreme People's Assembly, after which he became highly visible in overseas parliamentary activities.

In May 1973 he rose to the post of minister of higher education of the Administration Council's Education Committee and has consistently attended meetings of the general assembly and council of the IPU [International Parliamentarians Union]. He took over the post of president of the People's Economic University in 1979. He was reelected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, following which he moved up to full member of the Central Committee in 1985. He was appointed vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly together with Yo Yon-ku at the 2d session of the 4th Supreme People's Assembly in April 1983.

Beginning as a regular instructor of the WPK's party training organs and rising to the post of university president, Son is an educational administrative official and a scholar who has concurrently held positions as a senior Red Cross official and vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, and has frequently travelled overseas.

Of well proportioned height and physique, he has a round face. He is known to have a scholarly character and a mild-mannered and scholastic attitude.

### **An Sung-hak**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee.

An Sung-hak was born in Hamhung City, South Hamgyong Province in 1922. Before 1945 he worked as a laborer at the Hungnam Fertilizer Plant. In 1946, the year following the liberation, he joined the WPK and served as a guidance worker in the Hamhung Municipal Party Committee. After the Korean War he went to the Soviet Union to study at the Senior Party School.

An Sung-hak served as a member of the organization committee of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1956, but in 1958 was demoted to assistant manager of the Pyongyang Rubber Factory. In August 1961 he became chairman of the WPK Hamhung Municipal Party Committee and was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee at the 4th Party Congress in September of that year. After he was elected deputy of the 3d Supreme People's Assembly in October 1962, he served as director of the Commerce Department of the WPK and in 1967 was appointed minister of commerce.

At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was elected as a member of the Central Committee, but in 1972 he was removed from his post as minister of commerce and for a while was downgraded to manager

of the Sinbukchong Textile Mill in South Hamgyong Province. He reportedly had problems involving women and bribery.

In 1978 he was once again selected to be chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial Administrative Committee, where he served until April 1980 when he moved to chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative Committee. At the Sixth Party Congress in October of that year, he was elected as a full member of the Central Committee. In early 1983 he was appointed director of a Central Committee department, but was relieved almost immediately, then chosen as party secretary in charge of light industry at the 7th plenum of the Sixth Central Committee. In November of the same year he became a member of the top elite when he was promoted to candidate member of the Politburo.

However, two years later—in October 1985—he was named vice premier of the State Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the Chemical and Light Industry Committee. Then in 1986 he was removed from his position as candidate member of the Politburo and named chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, a position he still holds.

A member of the "basic class," from the laboring stratum with no background to speak of, he is an economics expert with political working-level ability who has had more than his share of ups and downs.

An Sung-hak is tall and has a round face and broad forehead.

He is reputed to be an eloquent speaker, but crude of expression, and an impatient but witty man.

### **Yang Hyong-sop**

[Text] A Member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Yang Hyong-sop was born in Yohung, South Hamgyong Province in 1923. Around 1950 he studied in the Soviet Union together with Kim Il-song's younger brother, Kim Yong-chu, and in 1954 he served as dean of education at the People's Economic College. From the time he assumed the position of president of the Central Party School, which was in charge of the ideological education of party cadres in the 1960's, his ability in the ideological field came to be recognized. In December 1967 he was appointed minister of higher education in the cabinet where he contributed to the propagation and interpretation of Kim Il-song's unitary ideology.

At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970, as the ideological theorist he suddenly was appointed to member of the WPK Central Committee and candidate member of the Political Committee. In addition, he was

named secretary of the WPK secretariat in charge of ideology, thereby rising to prominence as an influential member of the leadership.

Behind his sudden rise to a position of power in the party—in addition to the fact that he was Kim Il-song's cousin-in-law—reportedly is the fact that during that period he had the patronage of Kim Yong-chu. He had become good friends with Kim Yong-chu while they were studying together in the Soviet Union. This is attested by the fact that his appointment as member of the WPK Political Committee and secretary coincided with the period when Kim Yong-chu's influence was at its height in the early 1970's.

However, even as Kim Yong-chu's influence gradually waned with the rise of Kim Chong-il, Yang was able to consolidate his base in the party and the government and emerge as a key figure, playing an important role in ideological indoctrination in building the foundations of the Kim Chong-il system.

After being elected to the Central People's Committee in 1972, Yang visited the Soviet Union and in May 1974 was elevated to full member of the Political Committee of the WPK. In July 1975 the State Inspection Committee—which had formerly been abolished—was reconstituted and he was appointed its chairman. Subsequently, he was removed from his position as WPK Political Committee member and party secretary and became director of the Institute of Social Sciences. He was chosen as chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly at the 2d session of the 7th Supreme People's Assembly in April 1983, gaining prominence not only at international meetings, but also in state visits and other overseas activities as a party and government representative.

He is the number-one man in the field of ideology and theory and was instrumental in consolidating the Kim Il-song unitary ideology system and in purging and uprooting anti-Kim Il-song forces.

He has a frame well proportioned to his six-foot height and a large nose and broad forehead. He is known to be a brilliant type who has an outstanding ability in theory development, a sharp mind, and a well-rounded personality.

A cousin of Kim Il-song by marriage, he is the older son-in-law of Kim Il-song's older paternal aunt. Yang's marriage to Kim Sin-suk was the result of a love match when they were studying in the Soviet Union.

### **Yo Yon-ku**

[Text] Chairman of the Fatherland Front and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Yo Yon-ku was born in Seoul in 1927 and is the eldest daughter of Yo Un-hyong. In early 1947, while she was still studying at Ehwa Women's College in Seoul, she and

her brother and sister crossed over into North Korea. After going to North Korea, she studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow University, where she majored in English Literature. When she returned after the Korean War she became a teacher at a foreign language educational institution.

At the end of the 1970's she was named to the position of secretary general of the Unification Front, a unification front organization targeted against South Korea, in which she was played an active role. She was elected as a vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly at the 2d session of the 7th Supreme People's Assembly in April 1983.

She gave up her position as secretary general of the Unification Front in the mid-1980's and is now active as a member of the presidium of the Unification Front. At the time of the North-South Homeland Visitation Exchange Program in September 1985, she was seen in attendance at a banquet.

She is fairly tall for a woman, and on the heavy-set side with a round, flat face. She is known as a broad-minded, open person with a masculine personality.

### **Yon Hyong-muk**

[Text] Member of the Politburo of the WPK, secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat, and vice premier of the State Administration Council.

Yon was born in South Pyongan Province in 1922. When small he moved with his parents to Manchuria, where he lived in Beijiandao. After the liberation he returned to North Korea and studied at the Mangyongdae Academy and Kim Il-song University.

Yon Hyong-muk studied in the Soviet Union at the Ural Engineering College in the early 1950's and returned to North Korea after the Korean War. He participated in the postwar reconstruction work, serving as a industrial engineer in factories and enterprises. Following this, he was named deputy director of the Heavy Industry Department of the WPK, where his ability as a metal machinery expert was recognized and his career began to take off. He is known to have been selected by Kim Yong-chu, who wielded great power from the second half of the 1950's until the early 1970's.

After he was elected as a deputy to the 4th Supreme People's Assembly in November 1967, he was active for a while as the person in charge of organization of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and in 1968 was promoted to director of the Heavy Industry Department of the WPK.

It was from the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970, however, that he began his rapid rise to the top echelons of the power structure.

At this time he was elected a member of the WPK Central Committee and rose to number 17 in the party hierarchy. On the heels of this, in December 1971 he

became WPK secretary and in 1972 was elected deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly and member of the Central People's Committee. He rose to even greater heights in 1974 when he leaped to number-10 position in the power structure at the National Industrial Congress in February. And in September he was promoted to member of the Political Committee and Central Committee secretary and became nominally and virtually one of the major economic policy decision-makers.

In the late 1970's, however, he was criticized for errors in guidance and for personal misconduct when he was the senior official in the central leadership of the Three Revolutions Teams and demoted to the position of manager of a local industry factory. Then at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, coincident with the rise of Kim Chong-il, Yon was restored to his positions as member of the Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat.

Later he became 1st deputy premier of the State Administration Council in October 1985, and in November was named chairman of the Metallurgy and Machine Industry Committee. At the 12th plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in December 1986 he was once again named secretary of the Central Committee and took charge of the heavy industry sector.

A second-generation revolutionary and one of the key figures in the Kim Chong-il structure, Yon Hyong-muk is tall and heavy-set and has larger hands and feet than average. He reputedly has uncommon insight and knowledge of the field of industrial technology and a rational character and well rounded social relations.

### O Kuk-nyol

[Text] Member of the Central Committee and former member of the WPK Politburo and Chief of the General Staff. (General)

Born in Beijiandao in 1929, he is one of the central military figures of the second revolutionary generation.

Because his parents served under Kim Il-song, he began to form close personal ties with Kim Il-song from the first half of the 1930's. After the liberation he entered North Korea and became a graduate of the first class of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy. He graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied at the Soviet Air Force Academy, where he learned modern military science and technology. In 1964 he rose to commander of an Air Force regiment (major general) and in 1967 he was promoted to lieutenant general, after which he was elected as deputy to the 4th Supreme People's Assembly.

After becoming deputy commander of the North Korean Air Force in 1969, he was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 and in August of the following year

moved up to Air Force Commander and visited the PRC as head of a military delegation.

He accompanied Kim Il-song on his visit to China as part of his entourage in April 1975 and went to China with a military friendship inspection delegation in July 1978. Following this, he became Chief of the General Staff and was elected full member of the WPK Politburo in 1979.

A key member of the military leadership, he performed a dominant role in establishing the Kim Chong-il unitary guidance system and together with O Chin-u was in the forefront of denouncing the then-Director of the General Political Bureau Yi Yong-mu, Vice Minister of People's Armed Forces Chang Chong-hwan and Operations Bureau Director Im Chol as anti-party, counterrevolutionary elements opposing the Kim Chong-il unitary guidance system, and purging and eliminating them.

Following this he was promoted to lieutenant general in 1980 and at the Sixth Party Congress in October of that year he was elected full member of the Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and member of the Military Committee, fancying himself Kim Chong-il's "left arm." In April 1985, on the occasion of Kim Il-song's 73d birthday, he was promoted to full general.

However, O Kuk-nyol—who had been Chief of the General Staff of the military for 10 years and was expected to be the next minister of people's armed forces—was replaced in February 1988 by Choe Kwang, a first generation revolutionary, and downgraded to the number-30 position in the leadership hierarchy. Nonetheless, this is not regarded as a weakening of O Kuk-nyol's influence or a political demotion. That is to say, in view of the precedent of Paek Hak-nim—who in 1985 was dismissed from the WPK Politburo and dropped to number 30 in the hierarchy—we cannot discount the possibility that O Kuk-nyol has been transferred to a position of responsibility of a special organ.

O Kuk-nyol's father, O Chung-hup, was Kim Il-song's most loyal follower in the mid 1930's and today, even though he is dead, he is praised as a paragon of loyalty.

Of average height and tough constitution, General O has a round face and large eyes. He is regarded as a superior commander who has a sharp personality, correct carriage, strong drive, and thorough sense of planning.

### O Paek-nyong

[Text] Former Politburo member and vice chairman of the National Defense Commission (General). Died April 1984.

O Paek-nyong was born in the Eastern Manchuria region of China in 1913. He engaged in anti-Japanese guerrilla activities in Manchuria together with Kim Il-song, Kim Il, and Choe Hyon and even when Kim Il-song fled into the Soviet Union around 1940, he wandered around Manchuria with Choe Hyon and entered North Korea



after the liberation. He was named commander of an independent brigade that was organized in February 1948—about 7 months before the establishment of the regime, and served in the Korean War. In September 1953 he was deputy commander of the 7th Corps (a major general.)

Afterwards, at the time of the 1958 purge of Kim Tu-pong—a major figure of the Yanan faction who was Kim Il-song's most formidable political enemy—he served as Kim Il-song's chief bodyguard and was in charge of Kim's personal protection and the elimination of political enemies. By virtue of these services, he was promoted to lieutenant general.

At the 4th Party Congress in September 1961 he was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee and immediately named as vice minister of national defense (colonel general). In October of the following year he was elected deputy to the 3d Supreme People's Assembly. In February of 1968 he received the Title of Hero. Also, in July of that year he was promoted to general but, unable to obtain any special position in the military, he was appointed as minister of fisheries. Finally, in December 1969 he was appointed as commander of the Worker Red Guards, a militia organization.

In July 1970 he was given the concurrent position of director of the Military Department of the WPK and at the time of the Fifth Party Congress in November was again elected as full member of the Central Committee. He was appointed minister of land and maritime transport for a short time in December 1972, but with the change of the cabinet to a State Administration Council on 27 December 1972, he was removed from his position, setting a record for having the shortest tenure in a ministerial post. In December 1972 he was named vice chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Central People's Committee and in 1977 he held the post of chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee for a short time, then in 1978 was promoted to full member of the Politburo.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October of 1980 he was elected as member of the Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and member of the Military Committee. He died of illness in April 1984 at the age of 71. He was of average height and heavyset, with a round-flat face and broad forehead.

### **O Yong-pang**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and member of the Central Military Committee. (Colonel General)

Born in Samsu, South Hamgyong Province in 1930, O Yong-pang spent his childhood in the Beijiandao region. After the liberation in 1945 he graduated from the Mangyongdae Academy and entered the Hoeryong Military Officers School. After the Korean War he went to

the Soviet Union to study at a Soviet military school, where he received a formal military education.

Beginning his career in the Military Department of the WPK in 1959, he became chief of a department in the Operations Bureau of the General Staff of the Army in 1963, spent some time as a division commander in 1966, then was elected to candidate membership of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970.

In the 1970's he served in a number of positions including deputy corps commander, and corps commander and in 1978 was commander of a rear services base. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Affairs Committee. He became a full member of the Central Committee in 1985.

O Yong-pang's father, O Chung-hwa, was a cousin of O Kuk-nyol's father, O Chung-hup. He died while serving with Kim Il-song in the anti-Japanese guerrilla army in Southern Manchuria in the early part of the 1930's. Because of this special relationship, O Kuk-nyol and O Yong-pang spent their childhood as close to Kim Chong-il as brothers. They are core military figures who are supporting the Kim Chong-il political structure.

Of average height, he is of sturdy build and on the plump side. His face is round and flat. Familiar with modern military science theory and possessing an outstanding ability in operations and tactics, he is known to be a taciturn individual.

### **O Chin-u**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo and the Presidium, member of the Military Affairs Committee, vice chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Central People's Committee, minister of people's armed forces, and director of the General Political Bureau. (Vice Marshal)

Born on 3 March 1917 in Musan, N. Hamgyong Province, he accompanied his parents when they immigrated to Jiandao in Manchuria and spent his childhood there. He participated in Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla movement in the first half of the 1930's. After the liberation he entered North Korea with Kim Il-song and took part in the creation of the North Korean army. At the time of the Korean War he was commander of the 3d Division.

At the 3d Party Congress in 1956 he was appointed candidate member of the Central Committee and in October 1957 he became a corps commander. He was named Chief of Staff of the Air Force in March 1958. He was then a lieutenant general.

Coming into the 1960's, O Chin-u rose to the position of commander of the 1st army group and was promoted to colonel general. At the 4th Party Congress in September

1961 he rose to 24th place in the hierarchy as a full member of the Central Committee and began to enter the ranks of the top elite. He became a deputy to the 3d Supreme People's Assembly, which was held in October 1962, and became vice minister of national defense in October 1963. In November of the following year he visited Indonesia and Burma, leading a military delegation.

He was made a candidate member of the Political Committee in October 1966 and he became director in April 1967 of the Army's General Political Bureau, which provides overall political-ideological guidance for the military. When Kim Il-song carried out a major purge of factionalist party officials—including Yi Hyosun, Pak Kum-chol, and Kim To-man—O Chin-u stood in the forefront, which led to his promotion to general. At the same time he was reappointed director of the General Political Bureau.

O Chin-u became a member of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly in December 1967 and in February 1968 he was awarded the Title of Hero together with the Order of National Flag 1st Class. He became a candidate member of the Political Committee and concurrently party secretary in July 1968. In July and September of that year he visited Hungary and East Germany respectively, leading military delegations.

Above all, however, O Chin-u gained Kim Il-song's trust because of his support in the massive military purges that began in late 1968. Kim Il-song convened the 4th Plenum of the 4th Central Committee in January 1969 and removed 10 generals including Kim Chang-pong, who was then defense minister, and Ho Pong-hak, the man in charge of anti-ROK operations.

At that plenum, O Chin-u criticized Kim Chang-pong, saying that his mistake had thrown the party's monolithic ideology system in the army into confusion, rejected the inheritance of the revolutionary tradition, created factions in the military, and opposed the "cadreization" and modernization of the Army. And he denounced Ho Pong-hak for failing in organization work in South Korea and ignoring the revolution within the South Korean General Affairs Bureau, and creating factionalism and regionalism, while "going his own way." As a result, O was named to the post of Chief of the General Staff in February 1969.

The advent of O Chin-u as Chief of the General Staff, together with the purge of high-ranking military cadres, was the impetus for abolishing the former system that placed emphasis on modern warfare—which had been the military strategy up to that time—and shifting to a new military strategy that relied on an organic combination of conventional and guerrilla warfare.

O Chin-u visited the Soviet Union in May 1970, and China in July, and Romania and China in April and August 1971 respectively. Subsequently, in December 1972 he became a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly, and with the constitutional revision and

restructuring of the leadership system, he also became a member of the Central People's Committee, vice chairman of the National Defense Commission, and chief of the General Staff.

With the withdrawal of Ch'oe Hyon to the second rank of the leadership on 14 May 1976, O Chin-u came to hold concurrently the posts of minister of people's armed forces and chief of the General Staff, thereby becoming the real number-one military figure. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, he was elected member of the Central Committee, member of the Politburo and its Presidium, and member of the Military Committee. In April 1985 he was promoted to vice marshal and was the number-3 man in the leadership following Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

For about 1 year after September 1986 he failed to appear in public and it was reported that he was in poor health. Of average height, he has a gaunt, angular face and dark complexion. He is quiet and is known to have a conservative and abrasive personality.

### Yun Ki-pok

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee.

He was born in Pukch'ung, North Hamgyong Province in August 1926, but attended school in Seoul before the liberation. After graduating from the Susong Elementary School in Seoul in 1939, he entered Kyonggi Middle School, but dropped out.

After the liberation, around the time of the establishment of the regime, Yun Ki-pok studied at Moscow University, majoring in statistics. He returned to North Korea and became an instructor at the People's Economic University in April 1954 and was appointed associate professor in 1956. In August 1967 he was chosen as minister of common education in the cabinet and from this time forward he contributed to the Kim Il-song personality cult and the establishment of the educational system.

In external affairs, he was active as chairman of the North Korea-Latin American Friendship Association in December 1965. In 1966 he served as chairman of the North Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee.

Yun was named minister of finance in December 1967 and was elected as full member of the Central Committee of the WPK in July 1969 and in September was favored with an appointment as chairman of the State Planning Commission. At the Fifth Party Congress of November 1970 he was again elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee. In November of the following year he was appointed director of the WPK Science and Education Department and vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries in August 1972. In December of that year he

was elected deputy of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee and concurrently chairman of the Bills Committee.

In August 1972 Yun visited Seoul several times as an advisor of the North Korean side to the Full Dress North-South Red Cross Talks. In August 1973 he also led the Mansudae Art Troupe on a tour of Japan.

After being selected to the position of vice chairman of the Economic Commission of the Central Peoples Committee, he was promoted to full member of the WPK Central Committee, candidate member of the Politburo, and secretary of the Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress of October 1980. After he was removed from his position as secretary at the 7th plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in June 1983, he was named 1st vice chairman of the Economic Planning Commission of the Central People's Committee, but around 1985 he slipped from his position as candidate member of the Politburo. In September 1988, however, he assumed the position of chairman of the Economic Policy Commission—which had been held by Kim Il-song. Since the incumbent of this position conducts and supervises the entire range of economic policy, Yun Ki-pok holds a key position.

An economic expert who specialized in statistics, he is not only good at figures, but also is known to be extremely knowledgeable in communist theory. Of average height, he is heavy-set and has an oval face.

### Yun Chi-ho

[Text] Formerly candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and deputy director for propaganda in the Army's General Political Bureau (Major General). He died in July 1988.

Yun was born in 1928 in Kilchu, N. Hamgyong Province. After graduating from the Mangyongdae Academy, he attended Kim Il-song University and went to the Soviet Union, where he studied at Moscow University. After returning to North Korea he served as a guidance officer in the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department in 1956. As director of the Propaganda Department of the General Political Bureau of the Army he assisted in Kim Il-song's political purges in 1958. In 1960 he served as commander of the Kumgangsan District and in 1964 was editor-in-chief of the INMINGUN [KPA] newspaper.

After being elected deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972, he was promoted to the rank of major general in 1974 and was promoted to lieutenant general in 1976. Yun was named deputy director of the General Political Bureau in 1976. In October 1979 he visited the Soviet Union as head of a military commissar delegation and in December of that year took the post of senior editor of CHOSON INMINGUN.

At the Sixth Party Congress of October 1980 he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in November of the same year headed a military journalists delegation on a visit to China.

He died on 28 July 1988 at the age of 60 of heart trouble and an incurable illness. His post at the time was deputy director of propaganda of the General Political Bureau.

He was given a formal education as a surviving son of a deceased revolutionary and was a key figure in establishing the Kim Il-song personality cult and the unitary ideological system in the military. In particular he had a high level of political theory and was solely responsible for carrying out internal military political organization work. He had an imposing physique and a large head and a flat, square face.

### Yi Kun-mo

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and former premier of the State Administration Council.

Born in 1924 in Chunghwa, South Pyongan Province, he dropped out of the Sungsil Middle School in Pyongyang. After the liberation he graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied in the Soviet Union at Leningrad Industrial College, where he majored in mechanical engineering.

Yi began his party career in 1953 as a section chief in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department and in May 1958 he was promoted to deputy director of a department under the WPK Central Committee, where he started to attract attention. At the Fourth Party Congress in November 1961 he rose to candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. In May 1963 as deputy director of the party Organization and Guidance Department he demonstrated such special skills in the field of organization and guidance that he was known as one of the two great experts—together with Kim Il-song's brother, Kim Yong-chu. In recognition of these services, he was promoted to director of a Central Committee department in October 1965 and at the time of the Second Party Representatives Conference in October 1966 he was even elected as an officer of the executive.

From the late 1960's, Yi worked in the heavy industry sector, being named minister of second machine industry in July 1968.

Afterwards, he was elevated to 26th place in the leadership hierarchy as a full member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in 1970. This was in recognition of his great contributions to military industry as second minister of machine industry—which has overall responsibility for military industry. He vacated that position in May 1971 and in June became candidate member of the Political Committee and concurrently responsible secretary of South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee. And in December 1972 he was



also elected as a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly and member of the Central People's Committee.

In April 1973 he was given the concurrent post of chairman of the South Pyongan People's Committee and in June of that year he was named vice premier of the State Administration Council, functioning as a key figure in the party and the State Administration Council. He became a genuinely powerful figure when he was named full member of the Political Committee—the supreme policymaking organization—in October 1973.

After being named again as chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee in 1977, he visited China in October of that year and in December was elected as deputy to the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly. In the following year (1978) he served as responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Party Committee. In July 1980 he was demoted to responsible secretary of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee, and downgraded to candidate member of the Political Committee.

In 1981 he was named vice premier and concurrently minister of extractive industry. After being reappointed as responsible secretary of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee in 1984, he was chosen as secretary of the Central Committee at the 11th Plenum of the Sixth Party Central Committee.

At the first session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1986, Yi Kun-mo was appointed premier of the State Administration Council, replacing Kang Song-san, and again rose to full member of the Politburo, shooting up to fourth place in the leadership hierarchy.

The appointment of Yi Kun-mo—a figure who possessed scientific and technical expertise—as premier was aimed at the successful accomplishment of the Third 7-Year Plan (1987-93), which had just gotten under way, but in December 1988 he resigned because of poor health.

He is a tall, heavy-set man, with a flat face. He is known to be somewhat impatient and impetuous, but is regarded as having excellent organization and leadership skills. His wife is said to be a cousin of Kim Il-song.

### Yi Kil-song

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Transportation Committee of the State Administration Council.

Yi Kil-song was born in Samsu, South Hamgyong Province in 1923, but spent his childhood in the Manchurian area. After the liberation he attended Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy as the bereaved son of a revolutionary and after graduating from Kim Il-song University, he studied in the Soviet Union at Leningrad Engineering College.

Yi began his party career as a guidance officer in the WPK Heavy Industry Department in 1957, and by 1964 he had risen to deputy director of the department. The following year (1965) he began to gain prominence as vice minister of extractive industry. He gained the trust of the leadership by increasing production by launching a campaign to get rid of negativism and stagnation in the coal mines and ore mines and effecting great innovations.

Following this, in 1966 he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in 1968 was selected as responsible secretary of the provincial party committee of South Pyongan Province, where mines and collieries are concentrated.

After he was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970, he changed jobs, becoming responsible secretary of Yanggang Province. But in December of that year he was elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly and reverted to his former position of responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.

After serving as chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee in 1974, he was reappointed as responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1978.

Yi Kil-song served long as party responsible secretary in South Pyongan and South Hamgyong provinces—areas where industries are located.

Later, after being selected as chairman of the State Administration Council Communications and Transportation Committee, there was a restructuring of some cabinet ministries. The Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Land and Sea Transportation were amalgamated into a new Transportation Committee, of which he became the chairman.

He is stout and not too tall and has a narrow forehead and a flat nose. He is known to have a cheery disposition and animated personality. He enjoys sports.

### Yi Tu-ik

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Committee of the Central Committee. (General)

Yi was born in 1921 in Yanji, Manchuria, where he spent his childhood. In the mid-1930's he was active as a member of Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla unit. In the early 1940's he took refuge with Kim Il-song in the Soviet Union and was active as a special scout. After the liberation he entered North Korea and during the Korean war he accompanied Kim Il-song as the commander of his bodyguard detachment.

After the war he studied in the Soviet Union at the Leningrad Military College where he learned modern military science, and returned to North Korea upon

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completion of his studies. In 1962 he was appointed commander of the 9th Division and in October of that year was elected deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly.

In 1963 he served as director of the special operations bureau of the Ministry of National Defense as a lieutenant general, and in 1965 was commander of the 3d Corps. In November 1967 he was elected deputy to the 4th Supreme People's Assembly and the following year was awarded the title of Hero of the Republic. At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 Yi was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee, after which he served as commander of the 1st Corps in 1973. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Committee. In April 1985 he was promoted to the rank of general.

A soldier for half a century, Yi Tu-ik is regarded as a capable military commander who is well versed in modern military knowledge through both practical experience and studies in the Soviet Union.

A tall, stocky man, he has a flat face. He is known to be a taciturn man, with a soldierly spirit and shrewdness.

### Yi Pong-kil

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and responsible secretary of Chagang Province.

Born in 1926 in Chasong, North Pyongan Province, he worked as a laborer there before 1945. Because his father had died while under the command of Kim Il-song, Yi was able to attend Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy as the surviving son of a revolutionary. After graduating from Kim Il-song University, he studied at Moscow University in the Soviet Union.

Yi launched his party career in 1958 as a guidance officer in the Central Committee of the WPK and in 1960 was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee. In 1965 he was named deputy director of the WPK Department of Organization and Guidance.

He was chosen responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Committee of the WPK in 1967 and visited China in 1970 as head of a party-government delegation. He was elected as full member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November of that year.

He was [again] chosen as responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee in 1973, then in 1977 was for a short time demoted to vice chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee. In the following year (1978), however, he once again was appointed responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was reelected as a full member of the Central Committee. In 1981 he was transferred to responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee, but was

removed from the post in March of 1983. In 1984 he again was named responsible secretary of Chagang Province Party Committee. Thus he spent most of his career as responsible secretary of Chagang Province.

He is of average height and somewhat on the heavyset side. He has a round, flat face and a flat nose.

He is regarded as a spirited, decisive type who is straightforward with an impatient disposition.

### Yi Pong-won

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Committee of the Central Committee. (Lieutenant General)

Yi was born in 1925 in Kapsan, South Hamgyong Province. He entered the first class of Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy as the surviving son of a revolutionary and upon graduation went into Kim Il-song University. After the Korean war he studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow University.

He began his party career in 1956 as a guidance officer in the Organization and Guidance Department, and by 1967 had risen to deputy director of the department. While he was a senior guidance officer he was responsible for the South Hamgyong Provincial Party and performed commendable services to strengthening the purity of the party ranks by ferreting out large numbers of the remnants of the Yanan faction of the South Korean Labor Party. It is said that as a result of his efforts he began to gain the trust [of the leadership].

He was selected to be the responsible secretary of the Kaesong Municipal Party Committee in August 1970 and in November of that year was elected candidate member of the Central Committee.

He was elected deputy of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972 and as a member of the Budget Committee and in 1974 he was appointed as responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee.

Later, at the Sixth Party Congress in 1980, he was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee and member of the Military Committee. He is now active as a typical political commissar in the military.

After coming up through the ranks in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department, and serving as provincial responsible secretary, he donned a military uniform after the establishment in 1976 of the political commissar system aimed at strengthening party political guidance within the military. He went on to become one of the key figures in the hereditary succession. He is stout and has a roundish face and is known to be a frank and open man—a gifted person who is well versed in political theory.

### Yi Ul-sol

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Military Committee, director of the Escort General Bureau, and commander of the Capital Defense Command.

Yi was born in Musan, North Hamgyong Province in 1921.

He took part in the Kim Il-song anti-Japanese guerrilla struggle in the mid-1930's and after the liberation he followed Kim Il-song into North Korea. During the Korean war Yi was a regimental commander. After rising to the post of division commander in 1953, he studied in the Soviet Military Academy where he received a formal grounding in modern military science theory.

In 1962, when he was the Fifth Corps commander (a lieutenant general) he was elected as a deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly and in 1967 he was appointed to the post of 1st Army commander. At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970, Yi was elected as a full member of the WPK Central Committee and in the following year (1971) he became deputy chief of the General Staff, and in 1976 the first deputy chief of the General Staff. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected member of the Central Committee and member of the Military Committee.

In April 1985—on the occasion of Kim Il-song's birthday—he was promoted to general and about this time he was in charge of Kim Il-song's Escort General Bureau and commander of the Capital Defense Command, thus rising to the senior levels of the regime.

Starting out as Kim Il-song's bodyguard and orderly, Yi served as a professional military man for half a century. He is one of the pillars of the hereditary succession and is exceptionally loyal to Kim Il-song.

Lean and short of stature, he has a receding hairline. Yi Ul-sol is reputed to have a typical military temperament and to be bold in his speech.

### Yi Chae-yun

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and minister of labor administration.

He was born in 1923 in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province.

Before the liberation Yi Chae-yun worked as a laborer at the Chongjin Steel Mill and taught himself so that he was able to qualify in the official middle school graduate equivalency examinations. After the liberation in 1945 he joined the Communist Party and became an activist.

He started his career as a guidance officer in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department and studied in the Soviet Union at the Soviet Communist Senior Party School. As deputy director of the WPK Organization

Department in 1956 he began to attract attention by displaying his talents in the purges of anti-Kim Il-song elements.

Subsequently, he was selected as chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1960 and at the Fourth Party Congress in September of the following year he was elected as full member of the WPK.

Later he served in a series of posts—as responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee in 1968, and from 1969 until 1971 as minister of procurement and food administration.

In the latter half of the 1970's he was active as deputy director of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department, after which he was named as responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Committee in 1980. At the Sixth Party Congress in October of that year he was reelected as full member of the Central Committee.

In October of the following year (1981) he switched jobs, being chosen as responsible secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee, and for a short time—from January to October 1985—he was promoted to WPK department director. After he left his post as department director he served until early 1986 as responsible secretary of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee, then disappeared from public view for some time until he was appointed to the post of minister of labor administration in November 1988.

He is known to be intensely devoted to his work and is regarded as having superior organization and guidance skills. He has a strong physique and his height is well proportioned to his body, and he has a broad forehead.

### Yi Chong-yul

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK, minister of public health of the State Administration Council, and head of the North Korean delegation to the North-South Red Cross Talks.

Born in 1925 to a well-to-do family of Kilchu, North Hamgyong Province, Yi graduated from the Central Senior Common School in Seoul and entered the Severance Medical School there. He was soon arrested and jailed because of his involvement with an underground bolshevik circle and dropped out of school.

After the liberation he went to Kim Il-song University Medical School and later studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow Medical School. He served as dean of the administrative faculty of the College of Military Medicine in 1956 and head of the staff.

He rose to the posts of associate dean of the Pyongyang Medical College in 1963 and dean in 1966. In 1969 he took over the post of the Namsan Hospital in Pyongyang, the top hospital in North Korea. Yi was staff director of the Ponghwa Clinic in 1974 and rose to prominence as the leading medical authority by being selected director



of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 1977. He was appointed vice minister of public health in the 1980's then in November 1985 moved up to minister of public health, a post he still holds.

He has visited Seoul as the head of the North Korean delegation to the North-South Red Cross Talks, which were held three times from May to December 1985.

Yi Chong-yul is one of those rare persons who has achieved prominence as an influential figure of the regime and was even elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee despite the fact that he is from the wealthy class in terms of sociopolitical background and received a professional education during the Japanese annexation period. He is tall and stout and has a round, flat face.

### Yi Chong-ok

[Text] Member of the Central Committee, member of the Politburo, member of the Presidium [as published], vice president of the DPRK, and member of the Central People's Committee.

Yi was born the son of a landlord in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province in 1911. After graduating from an engineering school in Harbin, Manchuria in the 1930's he joined the communist movement and was active in Korea.

In 1944, one year before the liberation, he organized a group in Chongjin called the Red Friends Society and was active underground, but after the liberation he did not particularly stand out. Beginning in 1946 he started to teach at the Paeyong Middle School in Songjin then in 1948, after the establishment of the DPRK government, he became manager of the Chongjin Textile Mill.

Yi was elected deputy to the First Supreme People's Assembly in August 1948 and in October of the following year (1949) he became director of a bureau in the Ministry of Industry. In 1950, at the time of the Korean war, he became minister of industry and in December 1951 vice minister of light industry and began to assume prominence. In January 1956 he was elevated to director of the WPK Department of Industry and chairman of the State Planning Commission, consolidating his position in the party and the government.

At the Third Party Congress in April of that year Yi was elected as full member of the Central Committee of the WPK and in June even accompanied Kim Il-song on his visit to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He was elected deputy to the Second Supreme People's Assembly in August 1957 and beginning in May 1958 he took a 3-month trip to Moscow and Beijing as part of a diplomatic pilgrimage to obtain food aid and economic assistance.

As a result of these activities he gained the confidence of Kim Il-song and was even awarded the Order of National

Flag First Class on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the regime.

In particular, as a heavy industry specialist in the economic field, he greatly contributed to obtaining economic assistance from the Soviet Union and China and never failed to participate in major events that took place in the Soviet Union and China.

In July 1959 he took a giant-step upward when he was promoted to chairman of the Central Committee in charge of heavy industry, becoming a leading member of the power structure.

He became a candidate member of the Political Committee at the time of the Third Party Congress in April 1956 and deputy premier of the cabinet in January 1960. In April of that year he became chairman of the Heavy Industry Committee. At the time of the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961 he was promoted to full member of the Political Committee (number 11 in the hierarchy) and took over responsibility for the 7-year plan.

However, North Korean-Soviet relations became estranged as a result of the Cuban crisis of 1962 and in the aftermath the Soviets suspended their assistance to the 7-year economic plan. As a result, bottlenecks were encountered virtually from the inception of the plan. On top of that, the "military-first policy" was in the ascendancy and Yi gradually began to lose his preeminence.

He was transferred in October 1962 to deputy premier and concurrently minister of metallurgical industry and chemicals and in 1965 to director of the Academy of Sciences, but in December 1967 he was again named vice premier and was saddled with the work of finishing up the 7-year economic plan—which had been extended an extra 3 years. His abilities were acknowledged during the period of the 6-year economic plan, which began in 1971, and he gradually became more prominent, being appointed vice premier of the Administration Council in November 1976. In December of the following year (1977) he was chosen as premier of the Administration Council and member of the Central People's Committee and emerged as the man responsible for the implementation of the Second 7-Year Economic Plan. After winning a post as full member of the Political Committee in 1978, he was reelected member of the Central Committee and the Politburo, and was named member of the Presidium of the Politburo at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980.

Later he was removed from his 6-year assignment as premier in January 1984 and elected vice president of the republic at the third session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly. Yi Chong-ok is now an elder statesman in charge of economic relations.

A tall man, he is somewhat heavyset and has a round face and short neck. He is known to be stubborn and self-righteous and says what he thinks.

### Yi Chin-su

[Text] Formerly member of the Central Committee of the WPK and minister of state security. Died in August 1987.

Born in 1921 in Onsong, North Hamgyong Province, he worked as a laborer in the Songjin Steel Mill before the liberation.

After the liberation he joined the Communist Party and took an active part in its activities. He started his career as director of a department in the General Federation of Trade Unions in 1950 and prosecutor in the Office of the Supreme Procurator in 1955 and moved up to deputy supreme procurator in 1958. He was appointed vice chairman of the Democratic Lawyers Association in November 1962 and vice minister of public security starting in July 1965.

During his 8-year tenure—which ended in February 1973—as minister of public security, he contributed greatly to uprooting impure elements that appeared in the wake of the establishment of the Kim Il-song one-man system. This he accomplished by leading the work of re-registration for resident identification cards—a reclassification of the populace's socio-political class—that began in 1966. His skills were recognized and in March 1973 he was chosen to be the minister of public security and became the man responsible for surveillance and investigation of the populace.

He was subsequently appointed procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office in December 1976, then reappointed minister of public security. In 1982 he became minister of state security—in charge of the organ responsible for the preservation of the system—and became the top man in the state's organ of suppression. He died of a heart attack in August 1987 at the age of 67.

A figure who devoted over 20 years to organs charged with the preservation of the system—the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of State Security—Yi was a stout man of average height with a large nose and receding forehead.

### Yim Chun-chu

[Text] Formerly vice president of the DPRK. Died in April 1988.

Yim was born on 8 March to a poor peasant family in Yanji-xian, Jilin Province, China.

Prior to the liberation, Yim engaged in guerrilla activities beginning in the early part of the 1930's together with Kim Il-song, Kim Il, and Choe Hyon. After the liberation he entered North Korea with Kim Il-song and in December 1945 began his party career as second secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK and in June 1949 was appointed chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee.

In the following year—at the time of the Korean war—at the third plenum of the Second Central Committee of the WPK Kim Il-song lay the responsibility [for military failure] on senior party cadres and the military, saying: "In the period of the retreat some of our party's leading organizers and leading activists fell into utter disunion before the enemy's invasion and lost their ability to lead the party organs and subordinate organs. And even though they should have pressed ahead with the retreat operation in a cautious and circumspect manner, they only exacerbated the disorder and chaos." Yim Chun-chu was severely criticized for having run away and was demoted to the post of instructor at a provincial party school.

Yim made a comeback in 1954 as deputy director of the Liaison Department of the WPK and from 1957 to 1962 served successively as North Korean ambassador to Albania and Bulgaria. In October 1962 he became general secretary of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. He was appointed as director of a department under the WPK in December 1963 and served in that position until May 1967. He was elected full member of the Central Committee and candidate member of the Political Committee in October 1966.

In early 1967 Yim was implicated in the Pak Kum-chol-Yi Hyo-sun anti-Kim Il-song incident and dismissed from his post. In November of the following year, however, he was reinstated as a WPK department director and served in various posts until December 1972.

Yim Chun-chu left his assignment as WPK department director in December 1972 and took over the position of secretary general of the Central People's Committee and began to move up the ladder again, becoming dean of the Kim Il-song Broadcasting College in April 1973 and taking the lead in educational work involving the Kim Il-song personality cult. Following this, he was elected full member of the Politburo in February 1974 and moved into the ranks of the key power-holders, and in September of the following year (1975) he was appointed secretary of the Central Committee.

At the Sixth Party Congress of October 1980 Yim was elected a member of the executive, member of the Party Congress resolutions drafting committee, and reelected as member of the Central Committee and the Politburo. In April 1983 he was chosen as vice president of the Republic at the second session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly.

He was elected a deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly in 1962, the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972, and subsequently reelected to the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

Yim had an outstanding memory and excellent writing skills and relying on his experiences when he served with Kim Il-song, he wrote numerous works idolizing Kim Il-song and his family. Among the works he personally

wrote or collaborated on are: "Remembering Kim Chong-suk" and "Memoirs of the Anti-Japanese Partisans."

He was tall and heavyset and had an angular face and large ears. He was an erudite man and had a scholarly disposition, but is known to have been lacking in political acumen.

He died of illness on 27 April 1988 at the age of 76.

### Yim Hyong-ku

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and responsible secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee

Born in 1923 in Kapsan, South Hamgyong Province, Yim worked there as a miner before the liberation in 1945.

After the liberation, he received a formal education as the surviving son of a deceased revolutionary—graduating from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and Kim Il-song University and studying in the Soviet Union at Moscow University—and became one of the prominent officials of the regime.

Beginning his party career in 1954 as a guidance officer in the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department, Yim in 1955 became chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Democratic Youth League, and in 1961 the director of Propaganda and Agitation Department of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee. In 1967 he moved up to the position of responsible secretary of the WPK North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee.

In November 1961 he was elected as deputy to the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly and member of the Supreme People's Assembly Credentials Committee. In August 1970 he was transferred to the post of responsible secretary of the Sinuiju (North Pyongan Province) Municipal Committee of the WPK and at the Fifth Party Congress in November of that year was elected full member of the party Central Committee.

In early 1972 there was deepening confusion in the procurement sector as the result of an incident involving the theft and loss of grain, resulting in the dismissal of the minister of procurement and grain administration. In 1973 Yim, as chairman of the People's Service Committee of the Administration Council, solved the problem. In 1976 he was appointed party secretary responsible for the defense sector, a position newly created so as to provide unified guidance for party organizations in defense factories in order to develop the defense industry. Yim thus established his reputation as a man of ability.

At the Sixth Party Congress of October 1980, Yim was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee and in December of that year he was reappointed as chairman of the People's Service Committee. He was

promoted in 1985 to the post of responsible secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the WPK, a position he still holds.

He is tall and heavyset and has a square, flat face and short neck. He is known to be a man with a bold and daring character with strong principles.

### Yim Ho-kun

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and deputy director of a department under the Central Committee.

Yim was born in 1930 into a family of slash-and-burn farmers in Huchang, North Pyongan Province. Although he was unable to receive an education prior to 1945, after the liberation he studied at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and the Kim Il-song University.

He began his party career in 1956 as a guidance officer in the WPK Propaganda and Guidance Department and at the end of the 1950's he was active as a professor at Reunification University, a center for training anti-South Korean espionage agents. In the 1960's he worked as a mid-level cadre in the WPK Investigations Department and the Culture Department. By 1974 he had become deputy director of the Investigations Department, primarily overseeing the South Korea Operations Bureau and being involved in the dispatch of espionage agents to South Korea.

In 1978 he was selected as a full member of the Central Committee and director of the Investigations Department. A key official of the second revolutionary generation, he is deeply involved in issues dealing with South Korea. Following his election as deputy of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly in 1982, he was again chosen as a deputy to the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

Yim is somewhat tall but not thin. He has a protruding chin and a broad forehead. He is known as a man of principle who has a perfectly logical mind and straightforward and upright character.

### Chang Chol

[Text] Member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and art.

Born in 1926 in North Hamgyong Province, he graduated from the Faculty of Politics and Economics of Meiji University in Japan. Before the liberation he taught in an elementary school in Japan and in May 1957 joined Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan], serving as deputy director of the Education Department of that organization. In May 1958 he was deputy director of the Education and Culture Department and in May 1961 he served as director of the Education Department. In August of that year he was awarded North Korea's Order of National Flag 3d Class.



He went to North Korea on the 129th boat load of repatriates in October 1965 and in August of the following year he was appointed vice minister of culture. At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was elected candidate member of the Central Committee.

Chang visited Algeria in 1972 in his capacity of head of the "Sea of Blood Opera Troupe Delegation" and in September of that year he visited Pakistan and Egypt as head of the Pyongyang Art Troupe Delegation. In December he was chosen vice minister of culture and art. In 1974 and 1975 he toured Algeria, Bulgaria, Romania and the Soviet Union as head of the Mansudae Art Troupe Delegation, and in 1977 he visited France as head of the Pyongyang Circus Delegation, and made other overseas trips heading various artistic groups.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 Chang was reelected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee, following which he was chosen to be minister of culture and art in May 1986. Later, at the 13th Plenum of the 6th Central Committee in March 1988 he was elected full member of the Central Committee.

He is a tall man with a round, flat face and a receding hairline.

### **Chon Kum-chol**

[Text] Secretary general of the Korea Peaceful Unification Committee and head of the North Korean delegation to the North-South Parliamentarians Talks.

Chon was born in 1924 in Musan, North Hamgyong Province.

Before the liberation he dropped out of the Dasheng Middle School in Lungjing Province, Manchuria and worked as a laborer in the Musan Mine. After the liberation he was active in the Communist Party and graduated from Kim Il-song University.

He started his career as a guidance officer in the Social Department of the WPK Central Committee and by 1960 he was appointed section chief in the Organization and Guidance Department of the Central Committee and in 1963 he was active as a department head in the party's Political College.

After serving in 1968 as a section chief in the Cultural Department of the Central Committee, Yim was promoted in 1972 to deputy director of the Cultural Department. In 1980 he was vice chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee—a reunification front organization directed at South Korea—and in 1985 was chosen as secretary general of that organ. He has a good mind and majored in philosophy in college, so he has a high level of political theory. He is recognized for his abilities in the North-South dialogue, in which he is very active.

Consequently, even at the time of the 1972 North-South dialogue he directed the dialogue as spokesman and executive secretary for the North in the coordinating

committee. He also emerged as head of the North Korean delegation to the preliminary contacts for a North-South parliamentary meeting, which were conducted twice—in July and September 1985—and the preparatory contacts held from September 1988 for a joint North-South parliamentary meeting.

Of average height, he has a large frame and somewhat dark complexion and he does not part his hair. He is reportedly taciturn and enjoys being by himself and is somewhat simple and honest.

### **Chon Mun-sop**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and vice minister of People's Armed Forces.

Chon was born in 1921 in Musan, North Hamgyong Province.

He formed ties with communists in Manchuria from his childhood and from around 1935 he served as a guerrilla under Kim Il-song. With the liberation he went to North Korea and was appointed as a regimental commander when the North Korean Army was established in February 1948 and served in the Korean war as a division commander.

He served as the commander of the 10th Division until April 1956. In that year he became 7th Corps commander and in 1960 the 2d Corps commander. He served as military commander for the Kaesong District in November 1960 and in June of the following year was appointed as commander of the 2d Army. Afterwards at time of the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961 he was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee and rose to 26th position in the hierarchy and began to rise as a powerful military figure.

He was elected deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly in October 1962 and in February 1964 was selected to be vice minister of public security in charge of ideological guidance of the populace and director of the Escort Bureau. Thanks to these positions, in November 1969 he received the Title of Hero [of the DPRK] from Kim Il-song.

Reelected a member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970, Chon was elected deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972.

Having served as head of the Escort Bureau since 1964, Chon—together with Kim Il and O Chin-u—played a decisive role in picking Kim Chong-il as Kim Il-song's successor in the early 1970's when the plan for promoting Kim Chong-il as the successor rolled into high gear.

He rose to candidate member of the WPK Political Committee in 1975 and accompanied Kim Il-song on his visit to China.

He visited Yugoslavia as part of Kim Il-song's entourage when the latter attended Tito's funeral in May 1980, and participated in talks between Kim Il-song and Hua Guofeng. At the Sixth Party Congress in October of that year he was elected as a member of the Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Military Committee.

He was transferred to chairman of the State Inspection Committee in 1981, but around 1985 was removed from his position as full member of the Politburo. At the first session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1986 he was ousted from his post as chairman of the State Inspection Committee. In 1988, however, he was promoted to the rank of four-star general and appointed as vice minister of the People's Armed Forces.

A man who devoted himself loyally to Kim Il-song for his entire life, Chon Mun-sop—as a pivotal, old-guard leader in the hereditary succession—possesses practical experience as well as a knowledge of modern military science. He is a short, heavyset man with large eyes. A figure who has been overall charge of the secret bodyguards for many years, Chon Mun-sop is mentally sharp and morally upright, and has a poker face.

### **Chon Pyong-ho**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat.

Chon was born in 1924 to a poor farming family in Musan, North Hamgyong Province. Inasmuch as his father died while serving under the command of Kim Il-song, after the liberation Chon was able to graduate from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy and Kim Il-song University.

In the mid-1950's he studied at Moscow University in the Soviet Union. After completing his formal education, he began his life as a party official in 1956 as a guidance officer in the WPK's Organization and Guidance Department.

After serving as a key guidance officer in the Organization and Guidance in 1960 he served in 1964 as a department head and dean in the WPK Senior Party School. In 1968 he was promoted to deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department. At the Fifth Party Congress of November 1970 he was elected candidate member of the Central Committee, after which he served as dean of the Senior Party School.

In 1974 he again served as deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department of the Central Committee, and then first deputy director in 1976, finally being selected as the director of the department in 1979. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, Chon became a full member of the Central Committee and in August 1982, at the Sixth Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee, he was elected candidate member of the Politburo. Later he was named secretary of the

Central Committee at the 12th Plenum in December 1986. In November 1988 he was elevated to full member of the Politburo.

Chon is a principal figure of the second revolutionary generation who has worked for many years in the WPK's Organization and Guidance Department, gaining the deep confidence of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il for his services in developing their personality cults and in ferreting out anti-party and anti-establishment elements.

A tall, thin man, his face is roundish and flat. Chon Pyong-ho is a leading figure in the field of party-building theory. He possesses outstanding writing skills and has played a role in writing the teachings and treatises of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. He is reputed to be impatient and a man of principle.

### **Chong Kyong-hui**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee and director of a department under the WPK Central Committee.

She was born in 1931 in Taegu, North Kyongsang Province and dropped out of a girls' middle school in Seoul. After working as a telephone operator in the Inchon Telegraph and Telephone Bureau, she joined the South Korean Workers Party.

In 1949, under secret orders of the South Korean Workers Party, she placed an explosive device in the switchboard of the Inchon Telegraph and Telephone Bureau and detonated it. She was later arrested by the police and imprisoned in the Mapo Penitentiary, but she escaped during the Korean war and fled to North Korea.

Chong Kyong-hui studied at the Labor Academy and the Kumgang Political Academy in 1952 and after completing the WPK Central Party School in 1954 she was working as a guidance officer in the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1956. In 1961 she was active as deputy director of that department.

Chosen as an espionage agent targeted against South Korea in the early 1960's, she infiltrated into Seoul and Tokyo and carried out operations there for a certain period of time. As a result of her activities, she was especially trusted by Kim Il-song and at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 was elected a full member of the Central Committee. She rose to Central Committee department director in 1971 then in 1973-74 she worked as a deputy director of the party's Cultural Department. In September 1975 she was appointed director of the South Korean Liaison Department, which is in charge of covert operations against South Korea.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 she was reelected member of the Central Committee and even rose to candidate member of the Politburo, but in the mid-1980's she was removed from her position as Politburo candidate member.

For a woman she has unusually accurate analytical abilities and judgment and a lot of intestinal fortitude. Her frame is well proportioned to her somewhat tall height and she has large eyes and a square, flat face.

For her services in covert operations against South Korea she was awarded the title of Hero of the DPRK and the Order of Kim Il-song.

### **Chong Chun-ki**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, candidate member of the Politburo, and vice premier of the State Administration Council.

Born in 1924 in Anju, South Pyongan Province. Chon dropped out of the Sungsil Middle School in Pyongyang before the liberation. He subsequently graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied in the Faculty of Politics and Economics of Moscow University. Upon completion of his studies he embarked on his party career in 1953 as a guidance officer in the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department.

When Choe Chang-ik of the Yanan faction was purged and ousted from the party at the party plenum in August 1956, Chong Chun-ki sharply denounced him, thereby attracting the attention of Kim Il-song. He became deputy director of the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department in 1961.

Afterwards, he was also in the forefront of the purge and elimination of Pak Chang-ok of the Soviet faction, and in 1963 he served as responsible editor of NODONG SINMUN while concurrently serving as chairman of the Journalists Union and president of the Labor Publishing Company. Subsequently, he became candidate member of the Central Committee in 1966 and moved up to full member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970.

In the mid-1960's and early 1970's he displayed his ability in external activities also, holding the position of chairman of the Indonesian, Vietnam and Peruvian friendship societies. He also led various delegations of the NODONG SINMUN, the Journalists Union, and the Supreme People's Assembly to countries such as Vietnam, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, Colombia, Italy, and Malta.

With the launching of the Kim Chong-il political structure in September 1973, Chong was chosen as vice premier of the State Administration Council and has remained in that post for the past 15 years—the man with the longest tenure as vice premier. This reportedly is due to the fact that he has the complete trust of Kim Chong-il.

In November of the year following his appointment as vice premier he became candidate member of the WPK Politburo and at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was reelected member of the Central Committee and candidate member of the Politburo.

One of the leading ideologues in the party and the government, Chong is known to have excellent oral and written verbal skills. He is tall and well proportioned and has a round, flat face.

### **Cho Myong-nok**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK, member of the Military Committee of the Central Committee, and Commander of the Air Force. (Colonel General)

Cho was born in 1922 in Yanji, Manchuria, and grew up there. In the latter half of the 1930's he joined Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrilla band and served as Kim Il-song's bodyguard and orderly together with Chon Mun-sop, Paek Hak-nim, Yi Tu-ik, and Yi Ul-sol, who are all now key military leaders.

After the liberation Cho Myong-nok brought Kim Chong-il into North Korea and served as company commander and battalion commander of Kim Il-song's escort unit and in 1974 was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee. Around the latter half of the 1960's, while he was deputy director and deputy commander of the Escort Bureau, he promoted Kim Chong-il as the successor to Kim Il-song and helped lay the groundwork for consolidating the hereditary system. With the ascension of Kim Chong-il, Cho Myong-nok has also moved up in the power structure.

He became Air Force Commander in 1978 and was elected full member of the Central Committee and member of the Military Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980.

He is somewhat heavyset and not too tall, with prominent cheekbones and a receding hairline. He reputedly has an alert mind and sharp judgment and is a man of few words.

### **Cho Se-ung**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK, candidate member of the Politburo and vice premier of the State Administration Council.

Cho was born in 1927 in Changsong, North Pyongan Province and worked as a laborer in a fertilizer plant until the liberation in 1945.

After the liberation he graduated from the Communist Party school and began his party career as a guidance officer in the Organization Department of the Sakchu County Party Committee. In 1949 he was working as a guidance officer in the Organization Department of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee. After graduating from Kim Chaek Engineering College at the end of the 1950's he went to the Soviet Union to study. Upon his return he moved up to section chief in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department in 1964 and was promoted to deputy director of the Heavy Industry Department in 1967.



After being elected in 1970 as full member of the WPK Central Committee, he served in 1972 as party responsible secretary and manager of the Kiyang Tractor Factory. At that time he won the party's confidence by displaying outstanding abilities in the work of expanding and modernizing the factory. As a consequence, in 1976 he was appointed to the post of minister of third machine industry and in 1979 was chosen as vice premier of the State Administration Council.

After he was reelected as full member of the Central Committee and elected as candidate member of the Politburo at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980, he held the post of responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee of the WPK in 1981 and North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1983. The following year he was reappointed as vice premier of the State Administration Council.

He changed positions in May 1985, again becoming responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee, where he served for 3 years. Then in February 1988 he once again was reappointed as vice premier and concurrently chairman of the Construction and Building Materials Industry Committee.

When the Construction and Building Materials Industry Committee was reorganized into the Building Materials Ministry and the Construction Ministry, he kept only the post of vice premier.

An administrative official from a working class background with an advanced technical education, Cho Seung is known to have strong drive and the ability to handle his work systematically. He is tall and heavyset and has a short neck.

### Chu To-il

[Text] Member of the Central Committee, member of the Military Committee of the Central Committee, and Corps Commander. (General)

Chu was born in 1922 in Wangtian in the Jiandao region of Manchuria and grew up there. He served as an anti-Japanese guerrilla under Kim Il-song in the mid-1930's and entered North Korea after the liberation and served as a company commander and battalion commander in Kim Il-song's escort unit.

He saw combat during the Korean war as a battalion commander and after the war studied in the Soviet Union at the Soviet Military College, receiving an education in modern military science and technology on top of his accumulated practical experience.

Upon completion of his studies in the Soviet Union, Chu To-il returned to North Korea and in 1958 was serving as a regimental commander. In 1961 he was elected as a candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in October of the following year he was elected deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly. He was promoted

to division commander in 1964 and was chosen as deputy to the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly in November 1967.

Not only was he—together with Yi Tu-ik, Yi Ul-sol, Chon Mun-sop, and Paek Hak-nim, who had followed Kim Il-song since their youth—in the forefront of the purge of anti-Kim Il-song elements in the military, but he also personally took part in the purge of Kim Chang-pong and Ho Pong-hak and other anti-Kim Il-song elements in the military at the end of the 1960's.

At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was promoted to full member of the Central Committee and in December 1972 was reelected as a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

While holding the post of commander of the 3d Corps in 1978, he was promoted to colonel general and in May of the following year he received from Kim Il-song the Title of Hero [of the Republic] and the Order of National Flag First Class.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected as member of the Central Committee and member of the Military Committee and in April 1985 he was promoted to general together with O Kuk-yol, Paek Hak-nim, Yi Ul-sol, and Yi Tu-ik. He was appointed vice minister of People's Armed Forces in early 1980, but currently he holds the post of commander of the 2d Corps.

Somewhat tall and heavyset, he has large eyes, and black eyebrows set in a square face. He is known as one of the prime movers in strengthening the military capability of the modernized North Korean Army and a proponent of establishing sniper units. He is a man of decisiveness and drive and has a brilliant mind.

### Chu Chang-chun

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and North Korean ambassador to China.

Chu was born in 1922 in Myongchon, North Hamgyong Province. Before the liberation in 1945 he went to college in Japan, where he joined a communist student circle and engaged in [subversive] activities until he was arrested and imprisoned and had to drop out of school.

After the liberation he joined the Communist Party and started out as a cadre in the Chongjin (North Hamgyong Province) Municipal Committee of the Communist Party. After the Korean war he studied at the Soviet Senior Party School and in 1956 worked as a section chief in the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department.

In 1957 he was vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and the following year he was appointed director of the cabinet's General Bureau of Publications and deputy director of the party's Propaganda and Agitation Department. At that time he made great contributions to the purge and

elimination of the Yanan and Soviet factions and consolidating the Kim Il-song unitary ideology system. He was recognized for his services and appointed North Korean senior member (Major General) of the communist side of the Military Armistice Commission, a position he held from April 1959 until April 1961. In July 1971 he was reappointed director of the General Bureau of Publications.

After being elected as deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly in October 1962, he was named Consul General to Burma in February 1963. In 1967 he was counsellor in the Foreign Ministry and later, in 1972, he was demoted to bureau director in the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

In August of that year (1972) he assumed the post of secretary general of the North Korean Red Cross and participated in the North-South Full Dress Red Cross Talks as deputy head of the North Korean Red Cross Delegation. He visited Seoul as deputy chief of the delegation to the sixth session of the Full Dress Red Cross Talks in May 1973 and served as North Korean representative to the North-South Red Cross Working-Level Talks.

He assumed the post of vice chairman of the Democratic Lawyers Association in 1976 and participated in the first Asian Red Cross Conference

He was named North Korean ambassador to Yugoslavia in April 1980 and was elected full member of the WPK Central Committee at the Ninth Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in July 1984. He was chairman of the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee in 1985, and in April 1987 was editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN. In September 1988 he succeeded Sin In-ha as North Korean ambassador to China—the 10th ambassador to that post.

Chu also served as deputy head of the North Korean delegation at the time of the preliminary meetings for North-South parliamentary talks.

He is tall and somewhat fat and has a flat face and fairly large eyes and nose. A party theorist with a high level of knowledge about political theory, he is known to have a straightforward and cautious character.

### **Chi Chang-ik**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and secretary general of the Central People's Committee.

Although the date is unknown, he was born in North Hamgyong Province. He graduated from college in China.

He first appeared on the scene in October 1954 when he was appointed to the post of dean of academic affairs in the WPK Central Party School, and in 1957 he was appointed deputy director of the WPK's Department of Science and Education. After serving as dean of the

International University in September 1962, he worked as first vice president of Kim Il-song University in October 1964.

In November 1969 Chi held the position of member of the standing committee of the North Korea-Soviet Friendship Association and in 1971 he visited Somalia and Egypt as the head of a delegation from Kim Il-song University. After that, he assumed the post of vice chairman of the North Korea-Soviet Friendship Society and visited the Soviet Union in September 1978. He toured the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in January 1980 as head of a delegation from Kim Il-song University.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October of that year he was elected candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and in mid-1980 he was chosen to fill the post of president of Kim Il-song University, succeeding Hwang Chang-yop, and was relieved of the position in December 1986. At the first session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly held in December 1986 he was elected as secretary general of the Central People's Committee. At the same time he was also elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee at the 12th Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee.

An individual who was involved with educational institutions for some 30 years, Chi is tall and fat and has a round, flat face and greatly receding hairline and wears glasses.

### **Chae Hui-chong**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK Central Committee and minister of joint venture industry of the State Administration Council.

Chae was born in 1924 in Tanchon, South Hamgyong Province.

After the liberation in 1945 he became an activist in the Communist Youth League, then graduated from Kim Il-song University and continued his studies at Moscow University.

In 1955 he was a teacher at the People's Economic University, after which he was appointed in 1958 as a member of the Social Science Committee of the Academy of Sciences and in 1960 as academic dean at the People's Economic University. At the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961 he was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee and at the same time was chosen as a deputy director of a department in the WPK Central Committee. In October 1962 he was elected as a deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly.

He accompanied Kim Il-song on his visit to Indonesia in 1965 as a cabinet counselor and the following year (1966) assumed the post of director of the Documents Department of the Central Committee and performed a leading role in writing Kim Il-song's revolutionary history and in the personality cult.

After that he seems to have faded from the foreground of the leadership for a spell, then in December 1977 he was chosen for the post of minister of labor administration of the Administration Council and for 5 and ½ years—until April 1983—contributed to improve the labor administration sector.

In 1978 he held the post of chairman of the North Korea-Romania Friendship Society and visited Seychelles in May 1979 as head of a party-government delegation and toured Hungary, East Germany, and Poland as head of an Supreme People's Assembly delegation. At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 Chae was elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and at the Seventh Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in June 1983 he was elected as secretary in charge of planning and finance in the Secretariat, a post he held for 3 years, until October 1986.

After completing his tour as secretary, he was once again selected for the position of minister of labor administration in September 1988, then appointed 2 months later—in November—as minister of joint venture industry, when the Ministry of Joint Venture Industry was created.

The Ministry of Joint Venture Industry was established to take exclusive responsibility for the more efficient management of joint ventures and collaboration with foreign countries that followed the promulgation of the Joint Venture Law in September 1984. Chae's appointment is believed to have been made in consideration of the fact that he was an economics expert who was well versed in political and economic theory and had served for a long time as minister of labor administration.

Of average height, he is tall and slender and has a long face and sharp nose.

He is known to have a cold, hard-to-please personality and is poor at interpersonal skills.

### **Choe Kwang**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK Central Committee, candidate member of the Politburo, and chief of the General Staff. (General)

Born in 1917 in Huchang, North Hamgyong Province, Choe joined Kim Il-song's guerrilla unit in the mid-1930's and returned to North Korea after the liberation.

He was commander of the 1st Division in February 1948 and was elected to the First Supreme People's Assembly in August of that year, being reelected to the Second, Third, Fourth, and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

Choe Kwang saw combat during the Korean war as commander of the 13th Division and rose to president of the Kangwon Officers School in October 1952, and commander of the 5th Corps in October 1953. The following year (1954) he served as chief of staff of the 1st Army (lieutenant general) and at the Third Party Congress in April 1956 was elected as candidate member of

the WPK Central Committee. In June 1958 he made visits to the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia as a member of a military mission, and in October of that year he was chosen as commander of the Air Force. At the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961 he became a full member of the Central Committee.

Appointed in 1962 as vice minister of national defense, in February of the following year he was named chief of the General Staff, moving up to a key position among the old-guard revolutionaries. Following this, he visited the Soviet Union in May 1965 and was elected candidate member of the Political Committee of the WPK in October 1966 and his career was on the way up when he received from Kim Il-song the Title of Hero [of the Republic] and Order of National Flag First Class in 1968.

However, he was purged in 1969 on the grounds that even though he knew of Kim Chang-pong's plot against Kim Il-song, he kept silent and did not report it. He was stripped not only of his post as chief of staff but of all his posts and titles and ended up being exiled to a coal mine.

Later, in April 1977 he resurfaced and was appointed chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee and at the Sixth Party Congress in 1980 he was elected as full member of the Central Committee and candidate member of the Politburo, thus reentering the ranks of the top leadership. Afterwards he was appointed vice premier and concurrently minister of fisheries. He was temporarily removed from the vice premier post from January 1984 until July 1985 and was dismissed as minister of fisheries in August 1985.

In February 1988 he left his post as vice premier, which he had held for approximately 5 and ½ years, and was gloriously reinstated by being reappointed as chief of the General Staff with the rank of general, taking the place of O Kuk-yol.

Choe is a professional soldier who had practical military experience since his youth and was well versed in military science and theory and had devoted his life to establishing the Army and strengthening its capabilities. He is regarded as an outstanding commander who is decisive and bold, and is a superior military strategist.

It is particularly noteworthy that Choe Kwang's wife, Kim Ok-sun, is reported to have a special link with Kim Chong-il. She is known to have been one of Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese guerrillas and took care of Kim Chong-il's natural mother, Kim Chong-suk and even looked after Kim Chong-il after his mother died.

Choe Kwang is short of stature and fat with a pudgy physique and snow-white hair. He is said to be cool and composed and a cautious and quiet personality.



### Choe Mun-son

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and responsible secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee.

Choe was born in 1926 in Chasong, North Pyongan Province and lived as a slash-and-burn farmer until the liberation. As the surviving son of a deceased revolutionary he attended the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy, graduated from Kim Il-song University, and studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow University.

He began his career as a guidance officer in the WPK Propaganda and Agitation Department in 1958, moved up to section chief in 1962, and was promoted to deputy department director in 1967. At this time, Kim To-man, who had been the director of the Organization and Guidance Department, was accused of being a factionalist and was driven out of the party, and Choe was in the forefront of creating Kim Il-song History Study Rooms after Kim Il-song's revolutionary thought was designated as the party's only ideology.

In 1971 he was responsible secretary [as published] of the WPK Organization and Guidance Department and became a candidate of the Central Committee that year. He was elected as a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in 1972, after which he was also elected to the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly. Since being elected in 1980 as a full member of the Central Committee, he has been exclusively in the position of responsible secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee.

He is tall and thin and has a long face. He has thick lips and sunken eyes. He is known to be a relaxed and very patient individual.

### Choe Sang-uk

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK, member of the Military Committee and Commander of Artillery. (Lieutenant General)

He was born in 1929 in the mountainous district of Changsong, North Pyongan Province, where he spent his early years.

Because his older brother had been a member of Kim Il-song's guerrilla unit, he was able to attend Mangyongdae Academy after the liberation. After he matriculated into the Hoeryong Military Officers School, the Korean war broke out and he served during the war as a squad leader and company commander. After the war he studied in the Soviet Union at Moscow Military School, where he received a formal education in military theory. In 1961 he served in numerous command positions such as responsible guidance officer in the Central Committee Military Department, and an operations section chief in the General Staff.

In 1964 he was a deputy division commander of a light infantry division and in 1966 was commander of the

16th light infantry division, after which he rose to deputy commander of a light infantry corps. He reportedly fought for 3 years beginning in 1973 in the Vietnam war as head of a military mission to North Vietnam.

In 1976 he was elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee and became commander of the 8th Light Infantry Corps and rose to the position of commander of Light Infantry in 1978. At this time he was elected as deputy to the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly and reelected to the Seventh and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected as member of the Central Committee and of the Military Committee and served as Artillery Commander (lieutenant general) after the mid-1980's.

Choe is a second generation revolutionary who came up through the ranks as a squad leader, held various major command positions, and was appointed as Artillery Commander, and who received a modern military education in the Soviet Union. He is a key military leader and one of the top commanders who is well versed in light infantry special warfare.

A tall, heavyset man, his eyes are slightly turned up.

He is known to be a quiet, relaxed, and unflappable individual.

### Choe Yong-nim

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Born in 1926 in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, he was active in the Communist Youth League after the liberation in 1945. He graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied at Moscow University in the Soviet Union, after which he began his party-official career in 1956 as a responsible guidance officer in the party Organization and Guidance Department.

He was named deputy director of the WPK's International Affairs Department in 1962 and elected as candidate member of the Central Committee in 1966. Choe was serving as deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department in 1967 and was in the forefront of the purge and elimination of Politburo Member Pak Kum-chol and South Korean Affairs General Bureau Director Yi Hyo-sun and other members of the Kapsan faction. Following this he was elected as full member of the Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 and the following year was selected to be director of a department under the Central Committee.

Subsequently he was elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972 and took over in 1973 the positions of director of the WPK's Presidential Department—which is in charge of Kim

Il-song's presidential mansion—and director of the General Affairs Department, thus gaining tremendous power.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected member of the Central Committee and candidate member of the Politburo. Following this, he was promoted to full member of the Politburo at the Sixth Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee and was named vice premier of the State Administration Council. In October 1985 he was dismissed from his post as vice premier and fell from his Politburo seat as well. At that time it was revealed that he was assigned to "other duties," but as of now we have not been able to verify his position.

A figure who served consecutive tours as Kim Il-song's chief secretary in the early 1970's, he is reported to be extremely well-versed in political theory and has outstanding linguistic skills in Russian, Japanese and English.

He is somewhat tall and heavyset and has a round face. He is a prudent man with good interpersonal skills, having a congenial personality and bright expression.

### **Choe Tae-pok**

[Text] Member of the Central Committee and secretary of the WPK Central Committee Secretariat.

Born in 1929 in Kilchu, North Hamgyong Province, Choe Tae-pok is a WPK administrative-educational official. He entered the first class of the Mangyongdae Academy after the liberation as the surviving son of a revolutionary, attended Kim Il-song University, then studied in East Germany at Leipzig Engineering College, majoring in the field of chemistry.

He was a guidance officer in the WPK Central Committee Education Department in 1959, then in 1961 became a professor at Hamhung Chemical Engineering College. In 1965 Choe was engaged in research projects as a chemical expert working as the director of the Hamhung Research Institute of the Chemical Research Institute of the Academy of Sciences.

In 1968 he was dean of faculty of Hamhung Chemical Engineering College, and in 1972 became an education official when he was appointed as chief of a section in the WPK's Schools and Education Department.

In 1976 he rose to the position of deputy department director in the WPK Central Committee and in 1978 was chosen as minister of higher education and concurrently vice chairman of the Education Committee. In 1980 he became the senior educational official when he was promoted to minister of higher education and concurrently chairman of the Education Committee.

Later, in December 1986, he took the position of secretary of the Central Committee at the 12th Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee.

As a top-notch chemical industry expert, Choe supports North Korean policy aimed at raising the level of science and technology education. In particular he demonstrated his loyalty by being in the forefront of establishing Kim Il-song's unitary ideology in the field of educational administration, thereby gaining the confidence of Kim Il-song.

He is on the tall side and heavyset and impresses people as an intelligent man.

He reportedly has a bright, cheerful and generous disposition.

### **Choe Hyon**

[Text] Formerly member of the WPK Politburo and member of the Military Committee. Died in April 1982.

He was born in 1909 in Hyesan, North Hamgyong Province.

After spending his childhood in Hyesan, he crossed over into Manchuria when he was around 20 years old and in April 1929 graduated from a Chinese military school, after which he began to become seriously involved in anti-Japanese guerrilla activities as a member of the Chinese Communist Party.

He began to be associated with Kim Il-song around September 1933, while serving as a company commander in an anti-Japanese guerrilla unit in the Yanji area of Manchuria.

On the one hand, it is rumored that beginning in 1936, following the orders of the Chinese Communist Party, he commanded the "Korean Armed Unit," which was active in Eastern Manchuria. On the other, it is also recorded that at that time he was engaged in revolutionary activities under the command of Kim Il-song.

However, he reportedly served in the Hyesan and Pochonbo areas as a member of the 1st Corps of the 2d Army of the Chinese Communist Combined Army. (From an article in the 22 May 1937 CHOSON ILBO.)

Under the patronage of the Soviet military authorities, he started out after the liberation as commander of the 38th Constabulary Unit of the Ministry of the Interior. He rose from director (senior colonel) of the political bureau of the Army—which was organized 7 months before the establishment of the North Korean regime—to commander of the 2d Division (major general) in 1949, and during the Korean war he served as commander of the 2d Corps (lieutenant general).

In 1956 he was promoted to colonel general and at the 3d Party Congress, which was convened in April of that year, he was elected as full member of the Central Committee. A fast riser, in June 1956 he became vice minister of national defense and began to exert his influence on the party, the government, and the military.

Later, in April 1958, he was relegated to the position of minister of communications, then on the occasion of the Fourth Party Congress in September 1961 he again began to move up in the rankings, rising to 18th position in the party hierarchy. At the Second Party Representatives Conference in October 1966 he was elected as full member of the Political Committee, thus reappearing as a key figure.

As a reward for playing the leading role in the large-scale purge of Yi Hyo-sun (party deputy department director and director of the South Korean Affairs General Bureau) and Pak Kum-chol (in charge of organization) of the party officials faction at the secret 15th plenum of the 4th Central Committee of April 1967, Choe received from Kim Il-song the Title of Hero [of the DPRK] in May, on his 60th [as published] birthday. He also rendered distinguished services at the time of the large-scale military purges of 1968 and was promoted to four-star general, advancing to the post of minister of national defense, and becoming the most powerful man in the military. At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was full member of the Politburo and defense minister. And when the Constitution was revised in December 1972, Choe Hyon acquired a number of powerful positions: member of the WPK Politburo, member of the Central People's Committee, vice chairman of the National Defense Commission, and minister of People's Armed Forces. But in May 1976 he relinquished his position as minister of People's Armed Forces to O Chin-u and in December 1977 he gradually began to fade from the front ranks, retaining his positions as a member of the Central People's Committee and a vice chairman of the National Defense Commission.

He was elected as member of the Central Committee and Politburo and member of the Military Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980. He died in April 1982 at the age of 75.

He was short of stature—he stood only 5 feet tall—and heavyset. A simple and honest man, he spoke his mind.

### **Han Sang-kyu**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office.

Han was born in Samsu, South Hamgyong Province in 1926.

As the surviving son of a deceased revolutionary, Han Sang-kyu attended the Mangyongdae Academy and graduated from the Kim Il-song University's Faculty of Politics and Economics.

He began his career in 1957 as guidance officer in the WPK Organization and Guidance Department and was working as a responsible guidance officer in the Organization and Guidance Department in 1960, then in 1963 he took over the position of Dean of the Party-Building

Faculty of the Central Party School. In 1965 he advanced to deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department.

Having risen through the ranks in the powerful Organization and Guidance Department, he was downgraded in the early 1970's and worked as manager of a small-scale local factory. In 1976 he moved up again, becoming deputy director of the WPK's Administration Department. After being elected as deputy to the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly in 1977, he was reelected to the Seventh and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly.

At the third session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly of April 1982 Han was appointed as procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office—a key organ for safeguarding the regime—and to full member of the Central Committee, an indication that he enjoyed the confidence of Kim Chong-il.

Skilled in the practical and theoretical aspects of party organization, Han is astute and hard-driving. He is tall and somewhat heavyset, and has a large head and receding hairline.

### **Ho Tam**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee, and chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee.

Born in 1925 in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, Ho is a career diplomat who served more than a decade as foreign minister. He was attending the Wonsan Middle School when the liberation came in 1945, and he later graduated from Kim Il-song University and then studied at Moscow University. Afterwards, in November 1953 he began to work in diplomatic affairs as a counselor in the Foreign Ministry.

He rose to director of the Third Department of the Foreign Ministry in May 1956 and served as deputy director of a department under the Central Committee in October 1959. Appointed vice minister of foreign affairs in January 1962, during the early years of that decade Ho Tam played a role in improving North Korea's diplomatic relations, traveling extensively throughout the Middle East and Africa. Following this, he became first vice minister of foreign affairs around the end of 1969, and in July of 1970 was promoted to minister of foreign affairs, becoming in fact the number-one figure in the diplomatic field.

At the Fifth Party Congress in November of that year he was also elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee, coming to the forefront of party and government affairs.

He was chosen as a member of the Central People's Committee—which was established as a result of the restructuring of the governmental structure that



stemmed from the newly promulgated "socialist constitution" in December 1972—and was reappointed as minister of foreign affairs of the State Administration Council, which replaced the cabinet.

In February of the following year (1973) Ho was appointed as vice minister in charge of foreign affairs and, taking advantage of the North-South dialogue, launched a massive shuttle diplomacy, visiting China, Pakistan, Czechoslovakia, Algeria, the Soviet Union, and Mongolia as Kim Il-song's special emissary.

Notably, from the time he rose to the position of foreign minister in July 1970 until the middle of 1978, he managed to establish diplomatic relations with roughly 60 countries, thereby gaining Kim Il-song's confidence as a real career diplomat.

From 1973 when he rose to minister of foreign affairs and concurrently vice premier until 1977 he played a pivotal diplomatic role, attending the UN General Assembly, participating in the Nonaligned Movement meetings, and accompanying Kim Il-song on his visits to China and Romania and Yugoslavia.

He was reappointed as foreign minister and vice premier in December 1977 and at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected as a member of the Party Resolutions Drafting Committee, member of the Central Committee and candidate member of the Politburo. In December 1983 he left the post of foreign minister that he had held for some 13 years and was elevated to secretary of the WPK Central Committee and was promoted from candidate member to full member of the Politburo.

After being named as secretary of the Central Committee he took on the concurrent post of chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee and was involved in South Korean affairs as well as diplomatic affairs.

He is somewhat short of stature and has a firm physique with a round, flat face. He is skilled in foreign languages and is known to be a cautious man who is precise and sincere in handling his job.

Notably, Ho Tam's wife, Kim Chong-suk—the daughter of Kim Il-song's aunt on his father's side—is editor-in-chief of the government newspaper MINJU CHOSON. She met Ho when they were studying in the Soviet Union.

### Ho Chong-suk

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat, and chairman of the Fatherland Unification Democratic Front.

She was born in 1908 in Myongchon, North Hamgyong Province, the eldest daughter of Ho Hon, who served as chairman of the South Korean Workers Party (1946) and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly. (He died of illness in 1951 while in office.) She was the wife of Choe

Chang-ik, a prominent figure in the Yanan Faction who was vice premier before he was purged in 1956.

Before the liberation she graduated from the Paehwa Girls' Common School (now Paehwa Girls' High School) and in 1926 graduated from the Kansai Academy in Japan and went on to study in the United States from 1927 until 1929.

She started to take an interest in communism after she returned from her studies in the United States, and crossed over into China and joined the anti-Japanese resistance movement (1928-30). She was married to Choe Chang-ik during her period in Japan and China, but they divorced after going to North Korea and she has lived alone for a long time.

With the liberation she returned to North Korea and began to become prominent in the latter half of the 1940's: She was the director of the Cadre Department of the North Korean Workers Party in 1946 and director of the Propaganda Department of the North Korea People's Committee in 1947. She was elected as a member of the Central Committee of the WPK at the Second Party Congress in March 1948.

When the cabinet was formed after the establishment of the North Korean Government in September 1948, she was appointed as the first minister of culture and propaganda. When the Soviet Army withdrew in October of that year she demonstrated her abilities by assuming the post of chairman of the Central Farewell Committee.

Afterwards, in September 1953 she visited the Soviet Union and at the Third Party Congress in April 1956 she was promoted to member of the Central Committee of the WPK and in May 1957 rose to the post of chairman of the Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. In August of that year she was named minister of justice and, together with Pak Chong-ae (then vice chairman at the time of the Third Party Congress in April 1956), held one of the highest posts for a woman.

In her heyday she received the Order of National Flag First Class on the occasion of her 50th birthday in June 1958 and had won the trust of Kim Il-song. Of particular note is the fact that she attained her highest position—and the first time ever for a woman—when she was appointed in October 1959 as president of the Central Court.

However, after enjoying her golden years in the 1950's she was downgraded in the 1960's.

Dismissed from her post as president of the Central Court in November 1960, Ho Chong-suk lost her position as a member of the Central Committee at the Fourth Party Congress in September of the following year. She failed to make an appearance at any formal or unofficial function until October 1972. It appeared that she had been completely purged from the power structure, then in November 1972—after 12 years of absence—she once

again emerged when she was named as chief of the Secretariat Bureau of the Fatherland Unification Democratic Front.

In December of that year she was elected as a deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly and was named to the position of vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and began to move back into the brilliant career she had enjoyed in the past. In 1977 she visited Japan as head of a delegation of the Women's Union and after visiting Yugoslavia, Poland, and Romania as head of a delegation of the Fatherland Front in February 1978, she again moved up to member of the WPK Central Committee in December of that year.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 she was reelected as full member of the Central Committee, and at the end of the following year she was chosen as secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat. In April 1983, after 11 years as vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, she relinquished the post to Yo Yon-ku.

An erudite, extraordinary person with a masculine personality, she used to be called "the lady general" in her younger years, but now she is only a figurehead. Stout and of average height, she has large eyes and ears.

### **Hyon Mu-kwang**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, candidate member of the Politburo, and chairman of the State Inspection Committee.

Hyon was born in 1913 in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province.

Before the liberation he joined the communist movement, but was not a member of any faction or political line. He was arrested and imprisoned for his activities, but was freed after the liberation. He served as a section chief under the Organization Department of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee and as the WPK party chairman of the Yongsong Machinery Factory.

After the Korean war he studied in the Soviet Union at the Senior Party School and upon his return was able to broaden his practical skills in the field of party organization, serving as vice chairman of the WPK South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee in 1956 and chairman in 1958.

After his appointment as director of the WPK Central Committee Heavy Industry Department in July 1961, Hyon gradually assumed prominence as the man in charge of defense industries.

At the Fourth Party Congress, which was held in September of that year, he was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee and in December became candidate member of the Political Committee, thereby enabling him to participate in major party policymaking and decisionmaking across the board. In May 1962 he

was dispatched as the chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee, then in October of that year was elected as deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly.

When the cabinet was partly reorganized in 1963, Hyon was named chairman of the newly created Machine Industry Committee. And in December 1964 when the committee was renamed the Machine Industry Ministry, he once again took over the position of minister of machine industry. And at the Second Party Representatives Conference in October 1966 he was chosen as candidate member of the Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat, moving into the ranks of key power-holders.

In January of the following year (1967) when the Ministry of Machine Industry was split into the Ministry of First Machine Industry (in charge of defense production) and the Ministry of Second Machine Industry—to separate general machinery production from military machinery production—he was appointed to the post of minister of first machine industry and assumed overall responsibility for the production of military goods.

Following this, he gained prominence as the chief administrator of military industry in both the cabinet and the party and at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was named as candidate member of the Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat (in charge of defense industry) and became the top figure in charge of military industry.

In 1971 he moved to the post of responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee, then in November of that year was elected as full member of the Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, becoming a key figure in the power structure.

However, after he was elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972 and appointed as member of the Central People's Committee and minister of transportation and communications, he began to drop slightly in the party hierarchy. Although in 1971 he had been promoted to full member of the Political Committee, he was downgraded to candidate member in 1974.

After serving as chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee in June 1977, he was transferred to the post of responsible secretary of the Chongjin Municipal Party Committee in July 1980 and at the Sixth Party Congress in October that year he was elected as full member of the Central Committee, and candidate member of the Politburo.

Hyon was appointed as secretary of the WPK Central Committee Secretariat in 1982, then in November 1985 he was moved to vice premier of the State Administration Council and concurrently minister of construction and building materials industry. At the first session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly in December

1986 he was chosen for the position of chairman of the State Inspection Commission, a subordinate organ of the Central People's Committee.

Having primary responsibility for the development of heavy industry—particularly defense industry—Hyon Mu-kwang is known for his boldness and drive. Heavyset and not too tall, he has a large mouth.

### **Hyon Chun-kuk**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and director of the WPK International Department.

Born in 1922 in Tanchon, South Hamgyong Province, he grew up in the Jiandao area of Manchuria, dropped out of the Dasheng Middle School in Lungjing and took part in the peasant movement. After the liberation he attended Mangyongdae Academy and Kim Il-song University as the bereaved son of a revolutionary, then studied at Moscow University.

He was a guidance officer in the WPK Propaganda Department in 1954, and was an influential party official in the field of WPK theory and propaganda and journalism. He was appointed director of the editorial department of NODONG SINMUN in May 1956 and associate editor-in-chief in 1959, and visited China in April of that year as head of a journalists delegation.

As vice chairman of the Journalists Union, he attended the Second World Journalists Conference (in Austria) and was transformed into a diplomatic official, serving as counselor of the Foreign Ministry in 1962 and vice minister of foreign affairs in 1963. In June 1967 he was named seventh DPRK ambassador to China and was reappointed in March 1970. When he left his post in January 1977 he had held the position for a total of 10 years and had consolidated his firm position as a China-expert diplomatic official.

He was elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972 and rose for the first time to candidate member of the WPK Central Committee in April 1975. After stepping down from his post as ambassador to China in 1977, he visited Japan in May of that year in his capacity as vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and conducted negotiations on nongovernmental trade and a fisheries agreement. At the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly in December of that year he was reelected as deputy.

He was elected as full member of the Central Committee in June 1979 and picked to be deputy director of the party's International Affairs Department and visited Japan as head of a nongovernmental diplomatic delegation. And when working-level contacts aimed at North-South prime ministerial talks were held in early 1980, Hyon participated in the North-South dialogue as the senior North Korean representative.

At the Sixth Party Congress in 1980 he was again elected as full member of the Central Committee and in 1982 he became first deputy director of the International Affairs Department. In early 1986 he moved up to the post of director of the International Affairs Department, emerging as the principal figure in the diplomatic field.

He was reelected as deputy to the Seventh and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly in 1982 and 1986, respectively, and when the WPK's International Affairs Department was renamed the International Department in 1988, he remained in the position. An elite, high-level official who received a formal, higher education, Hyon is known as a man of political ability, persuasiveness, and self-confidence. Of average height he has a solid physique, and has generally large eyes, nose and mouth.

### **Hong Ki-mun**

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee and vice chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee.

A native of Koisan, North Chungchong Province, he is the eldest son of Hong Myong-hui, a writer at the time of the liberation. He is an authority on the study of the hyangga poetry of the Silla Dynasty and he has written many works in the field of Korean literature and is well known even in Japan.

His father, Hong Myong-hui, went to Pyongyang in late 1947, about a half year before defecting to the North, and in 1948 became a deputy to the First Supreme People's Assembly. In September 1949 he was an associate professor at Kim Il-song University, and in September 1954 he was professor and head of the language faculty there. In July 1957 he served as director of the Language Research Institute of the Academy of Sciences and professor in the field of language at Kim Il-song University.

In January 1960 he received a PhD degree in linguistics from Kim Il-song University and in May of the following year was named a member of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee, which was created to prepare for North-South negotiations in the wake of the 19 April incident [1961 military coup in South Korea].

He occupied a number of important positions primarily in the research institutes of the Academy of Social Sciences. In April 1964 he was associate director of the Academy of Social Sciences and in June 1965 he was appointed vice chairman of the Korean Research Scientists Association. As a member of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee he also proposed North-South journalists exchanges in May 1966.

In September 1967 Hong was active as a member of the Central Election Committee for the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly elections, but from March 1968, when his father Hong Myong-hui (then a vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's



Assembly) died of illness, until 1971 he held no noteworthy positions except vice chairman of the Screening Committee for Academic Degrees and Academic Positions. Then when the North-South dialogue began in 1972 he gradually started to rise again.

As a result, he was elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in December 1972 and was appointed as vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and concurrently vice chairman of the Standing Committee with Ho Chong-suk. He attended the 61st general session of the IPU [International Parliamentarians Union] held in Tokyo in September 1974 and the 62d general session of the IPU held in London in August 1975.

During the meeting in Tokyo in 1974, every time he met the South Korean delegation he reminisced over the old days and inquired as to how his boyhood friends were doing. In particular, it is said that when he met Assemblyman Chong Il-hyong he said, "We know each other very well," and grasped Chong's hand tightly and showed an expression of deep emotion.

Also, it is said that whenever he met the South Korean delegation during this conference he showed that he was filled with nostalgia: He spoke and acted in a comparatively subdued manner, and talked mainly about old times, and in response to the South Korean delegation's invitation to "visit Seoul once" he asked, "Would I be safe if I went to Seoul?"

In December 1977 he was elected to the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly and elected as chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the Standing Committee. From the mid- to late- 1970's Hong attended various anti-South Korean gatherings and made commemorative reports.

In early 1980 he stepped down from his position as vice chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee and at the Sixth Party Congress in October he was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee.

At the second session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly in April 1983 he turned over to Son Song-pil the post of vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly that he had held since December 1972. At present he is not engaged in any party activities, but retains the ineffectual post of a vice chairman of the Fatherland Peaceful Unification Committee.

He is of average height, heavyset, and has a broad forehead and is quite bald.

### Hong Song-nam

[Text] Member of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Politburo, and vice premier of the Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the State Planning Commission.

Hong was born in 1924 in Wonsan, Kangwon Province.

He graduated from Common School in Wonsan and middle school in Hamhung. After the liberation he studied at Kim Il-song University and was the first North Korean to study at Prague Engineering College in Czechoslovakia, majoring in mechanical engineering.

He began his career in 1954 as chief of the guidance officer section of the Heavy Industry Department of the WPK Central Committee. After serving as manager of the Kusong Machine Tool Factory in 1959, he was appointed as deputy director of the WPK Heavy Industry Department. In 1968 he was named director of the Fifth Secretariat Bureau of the Cabinet Secretariat, and at the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 he was elected as candidate member of the WPK Central Committee.

Hong was chosen to the position of director of the WPK Heavy Industry Department in 1971 and in December of 1972 was elected as deputy to the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly. Subsequently he was reelected as deputy to the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Supreme People's Assembly. In September 1973 he rose to the position of vice premier of the State Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the State Planning Commission. In September 1975, however, he was removed from his position as vice premier and in December 1977 dismissed from his post as chairman of the State Planning Commission.

After being elected as full member of the Central Committee in December 1978, he was reelected as a Central Committee member at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 and the following year became a candidate member of the WPK Politburo while being reappointed as vice premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the State Planning Committee.

However, he dropped out of sight in early 1983 and did not resurface until September 1985 when he was serving as vice chairman of the State Planning Commission. In February 1986 he was reappointed as candidate member of the Politburo and again began to move up the ladder, being chosen yet again as a vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission.

At the 12th Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in December 1986 he was promoted to full member of the Politburo—the supreme decisionmaking organ of the party—and advanced to first vice premier of the State Administration Council. But in October of the following year he returned to his previous position as a vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission. Afterwards, in February 1988 he was removed from his post as chairman of the State Planning Commission, but just 4 months later was reappointed to the position, where he still remains.

Hong is a key administrative official who possesses a knowledge of modern science and technology. Precise and thorough in performing his duties and a man with superior judgment, he has continued to hold the position of chairman of the State Planning Commission. He is tall and has a large frame with roundish face and large, round eyes.

21 September 1989

### Hong Si-hak

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK, candidate member of the Politburo, and responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee.

Born in 1922 in Onsong, North Hamgyong Province, he dropped out of primary school before the liberation and worked as a miner until 1945. Because his father died while a member of Kim Il-song's guerrilla force, after the liberation Hong received a formal education, attending Pyongyang Academy and the Central Party School and studying at the Senior Party School in the Soviet Union.

After emerging as a member of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK in 1958, he moved to the position of chairman of the Chongjin Municipal Party Committee of the WPK in September 1962. In October of that year was elected deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly and to each subsequent Supreme People's Assembly through the eighth. He was chosen as responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK in September 1968 and within a year of his appointment—in October 1969—he was transferred to the position of minister of mines where he contributed to the development of the mining sector.

Later, at the Fifth Party Congress, which was convened in November 1970, he was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee and was ranked number 58 in the party hierarchy. He worked in the mining sector until May 1972, at which time he was appointed responsible secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee.

He worked as the Kangwon Province responsible secretary for 5 years and began to distinguish himself from August 1977. He appeared at the Machine Industry Activists Conference which was held then and skyrocketed to candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee. And in December of that year he was promoted to member of the Central People's Committee.

However, he was dropped from the roster of Politburo candidate members at the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 when he was elected only as member of the Central Committee and secretary of the WPK Secretariat. Later he was appointed as vice premier of the Administration Council in April 1981.

In 1983 he assumed, in addition to his post as vice premier, the concurrent position of chairman of the Extractive Industry Committee. At the 11th Plenum of the Sixth Central Committee in February 1986 he was reinstated as candidate member of the Politburo and was removed from his posts of vice premier and chairman of extractive industries and reassigned as responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee, where he remains today.

An expert in the field of extractive industry who has a working class background, Hong is known as a simple and honest man of strong principles. He is tall and fairly thin and has a round, flat face and slightly bent posture.

### Hwang Chang-yop

[Text] Member of the Central Committee of the WPK and secretary of the WPK Central Committee Secretariat.

Hwang was born in 1925 in Chuul, North Hamgyong Province and before the liberation graduated from Kyongsong Middle School. After the liberation he graduated from Kim Il-song University and studied at Moscow University, majoring in philosophy.

He held posts such as head of the philosophy faculty of Kim Il-song University in October 1954 and chairman of the social science sector of the Academy of Sciences in 1958, then at the end of 1959 he was appointed as deputy director of the WPK's Propaganda and Agitation Department.

He was elected as deputy to the Third Supreme People's Assembly in October 1962 and continued to be reelected up to the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly. In 1963 he accompanied then-Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee Chairman Choe Yong-kon on his visit to China. He served as cabinet counselor in 1964 and in November of that year again accompanied Choe Yong-kon on a trip to Egypt, Algeria, Mali, Guinea, and Cambodia. In April of the following year he was appointed president of Kim Il-song University.

At the Fifth Party Congress in November 1970 Hwang Chang-yop was elected as full member of the WPK Central Committee and in December 1972 was chosen as chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, moving into the top position in the legislative branch. With the restructuring of the governmental structure following the adoption of the new socialist constitution, and the creation of the Presidency and the Central People's Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly's authority was severely reduced.

After becoming chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, from 1973 until 1976 he made trips to North Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, the Soviet Union, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Bangladesh. In December 1977 he retained the post of chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the Standing Committee.

At the Sixth Party Congress in October 1980 he was elected a member of the Central Committee, secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat (in charge of ideology) and in April 1983, at the second session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly, he turned over his post of Supreme People's Assembly chairman to Yang Hyong-sop. He is currently serving as a secretary of the Central Committee.

Hwang Chang-yop is one of North Korea's most authoritative and able doctorate-holders and ideological theorists. He is in a class by himself as far as Marxist-Leninist

philosophy is concerned and is also is reputed to be skilled in foreign languages. A tall, lean man, he has a round face and large ears.



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